Bengaluru Tuesday, August 19, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 230 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

PM chairs high-level meet on next-gen reforms

Page 10

Business

Unemployment rate dips to 5.2% in July: Govt survey P.14

Nation

Rain fury leaves 7 dead in Maharashtra P.10

Business

B'luru 4th in global residential markets P.14

World

Hamas accepts new Gaza ceasefire proposal P.12

SHARPENING WEAPONS

- Impeachment idea comes up during meeting of I.N.D.I.A parliamentary floor leaders and finds acceptance
- Floor leaders feel that Kumar's presser is a "declaration of war against the Opposition"
- Congress' Jairam Ramesh backs impeachment motion as CEC had not answered any poll-related questions
- Leaders say the CEC acted like a BJP politician at the press conference by going after the Oppn

Livid over presser, I.N.D.I.A mulls impeaching CEC

Leaders fume as poll panel chief attacked Oppn parties

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc is planning to submit a notice to impeach Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, whose press conference on Sunday seemed to have acted as a catalyst for the move.

In his presser, a combative Kumar had attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his 'vote theft' allegations and sought to blame the Opposition parties for the inaccuracies in electoral rolls. The CEC also asked Rahul to submit his claims under oath in seven days or apologise for the "baseless" remarks.

A CEC can be removed only through an impeachment process similar to a High Court or Supreme Court judge. An Election Commissioner can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC, according to Article 325(5) of the Constitution.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

The impeachment idea came up during a meeting of I.N.D.I.A parliamentary floor leaders chaired by the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and it immediately resonated with those attending the deliberations, sources said.

The move gained momentum as the leaders started discussing the floor strategy for the remaining four days of the Monsoon Session. Floor leaders were of the opinion that Kumar's press conference on Sunday was a "declaration of war against the Opposition", as put by CPI(M) Rajya Sabha floor leader John Brittas, and they should continue with the protest.

At this point, sources said, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh suggested that an impeachment motion could be moved against the CEC, who had not answered any questions related to the electoral process and attacked the Opposition.

While the leaders explored options to carry forward the protest inside Parliament, sources said the option of impeachment gained currency as the only available option left for the Opposition.

▸ EC, Page 6

Oppn targets EC again

The Opposition on Monday claimed that the EC has "completely failed" to discharge its constitutional duty of ensuring a free and fair electoral system, and that those who lead the poll body "intimidate" those who challenge the ruling BJP. In a joint statement, 20 I.N.D.I.A parties said the CEC offered no clarifications or comment on vote theft allegations. **Details on Page 7**

Differences must not become disputes: EAM to China's Wang

India asks China for early troop withdrawal from rear areas

NEW DELHI, DHNS

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Any positive momentum in India-China relations will be based on peace along the disputed boundary between the two nations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Monday.

Ahead of the 24th round of boundary negotiations between India and China, New Delhi also nudged Beijing to expeditiously withdraw nearly 100,000 additional troops the Chinese army had deployed along its Line of Actual Control with India.

"This (boundary negotiation) is very important because the basis for any positive momentum in our ties is the ability to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," Jaishankar told Wang at a meeting held soon after the latter's arrival on Monday. "It is also essential that the de-escalation process move forward."

> "This (boundary negotiation) is very important because the basis for any positive momentum in our ties is the ability to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas. It is also essential that the de-escalation process move forward."
>
> **S Jaishankar,** External Affairs Minister

Jaishankar noted that India-China relations went through a difficult period, indirectly referring to the military stand-off in eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020. "Our two nations now seek to move ahead. This requires a candid and constructive approach from both sides," Jaishankar said.

▸ Jaishankar, Page 6

Govt: Dharmasthala probe will start after sample analysis

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday the investigation into the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala "hasn't even started" and that only the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the matter, not the government, would decide on the need for further diggings.

During a discussion on the Dharmasthala issue in the Assembly, the home minister said: "Till now, only the exhumation has happened. They have collected samples and sent them to the laboratory. There has to be an analysis of the skeletal remains obtained at the first spot and an analysis of samples of all spots. The investigation begins when sample, DNA and soil analyses are done."

He further said the laterite soil in Dharmasthala is acidic, because of which bones may also disintegrate.

> Digging has been paused until reports on samples from previous exhumations are obtained. We won't dig the entire Dharmasthala. But the decision whether to continue digging or not will be taken by the SIT and not the government.
>
> **G PARAMESHWARA** Home Minister

Reiterating that the case was very sensitive, the home minister urged the Opposition party to not politicise the issue. "They welcomed the SIT but later they suddenly took up the issue. If the investigation proves that nothing has happened, won't it increase the prestige of Dharmasthala? On the other hand, if the allegations are proven true, the suffering families will get justice. Politicising and giving different theories isn't correct."

When the BJP repeated its argument that there had been a "smear campaign" to malign Dharmasthala, Parameshwara said: "As long as I am the home minister, there won't be any extra-constitutional activity in this case. If there's a conspiracy, it will come out. If there's some truth in what the media is saying, let that also come out."

Stating that the SIT had been asked to give its report at the earliest, the home minister said: "They will give it within three months. It may happen earlier, may get over in 15 days, 20 days or a month also."

Responding to arguments by the BJP as to why the SIT had not taken the complainant/ masked man to custody, the minister explained that the authorities had been acting as per the Witness Protection Act.

Probe 2012 double murder: Family to SIT

The family of a man and his sister, who were murdered in Dharmasthala village in 2012, has appealed to the SIT to reinvestigate the case. Ganesh and Bharathi alleged that prominent persons from Dharmasthala were behind the death of their father Narayana and his sister Yamuna. **Details on Page 5**

Action against man accusing CM of murders

Home Minister G Parameshwara told the Legislative Assembly on Monday that he had ordered legal action against a person whose two-year-old video claiming that CM Siddaramaiah was involved in 24 murders has gone viral. The issue was raised by the Opposition BJP in the Assembly. **Details on Page 5**

Zelenskyy, Trump hopeful of trilateral talks with Putin

WASHINGTON, AP: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President Donald Trump expressed hope that Monday's critical talks with Ukrainian and European leaders at the White House could lead to trilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to bring an end to Russia's war on Ukraine.

The US president also said he would back European security guarantees for Ukraine.

Trump stopped short of committing US troops to the effort, saying instead that there would be a "NATO-like" security presence but that all those details would be hashed out in their afternoon meeting with EU leaders.

Monday's hastily assembled meeting comes after Trump met with Putin on Friday.

"If everything works out today, we'll have a trilat," Trump said, referring to possible talks among Zelenskyy, Putin and Trump. Zelenskyy also expressed openness to a trilateral.

6 electrocuted in Hyd during procession

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Six people were electrocuted and four others were injured when a chariot came into contact with live wires during Janmashtami celebrations in Hyderabad on Sunday night.

While five people died on the spot, another person succumbed during treatment.

The tragedy occurred when the vehicle pulling the chariot stalled during the celebratory procession. As people pushed the vehicle forward, overhead electric wires came in contact with it, delivering a fatal electric shock to the victims.

The government has ordered an enquiry. **Details on Page 11**

The Hebbal flyover loop, inaugurated on Monday, is expected to cut down congestion at the busy intersection. DH PHOTO

Hebbal flyover loop opened; cops say congestion down by 25-30%

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Hours after the Hebbal flyover loop was thrown open to the public on Monday, the Bengaluru Traffic Police claimed the new road infrastructure has already resulted in a 25-30% drop in traffic congestion at the busy intersection.

The much-awaited loop was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar at 11 am.

"The congestion on the flyover has seen a marked decrease of 25 to 30%. The main carriageway has also shown some improvement," Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *DH*. The official said earlier they would adopt a 'gating' mechanism, where only commuters on the main carriageway or the loop were allowed to pass at a time.

▸ Hebbal loop, Page 6

Rs 6.3 cr rent a month: Apple's big B'luru push

BENGALURU, DHNS: iPhone maker Apple has leased nearly 2.7 lakh sq feet of office space in Embassy Zenith in Bengaluru for 10 years, with a total rental outlay of over Rs 1,000 crore, according to Propstack, a data analytics company.

The lease has been signed for 10 years, and it is effective from April 2025. Apple will occupy 5th to 13th floors of Embassy Zenith with a monthly rent of about Rs 6.3 crore (Rs 235 per sq ft) **Details on Page 14**

GROWING CONCERN

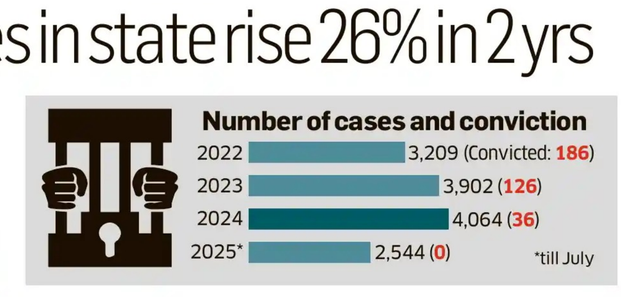
Pocso cases in state rise 26% in 2 yrs

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

In just two years, the number of Pocso cases in the state have increased by nearly 26%, raising concerns over children's safety.

According to the data presented in the Legislative Council, in 2022, about 3,209 cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act were recorded, which increased to 4,064 by 2024. In 2025, so far, 2,544 cases have been recorded.

However, though cases are on the rise, nearly one-third of them or even more result in acquittals with the conviction rate remaining low.



For instance, in 2022, out of the 3,209 cases, 1,562 ended up in acquittal and only 186 were convicted while another 1,224 cases remain under trial.

Experts working on child rights opined that an increase in awareness among people may have had an impact on the number of cases.

The low convictions were mostly due to reluctance by parents to pursue cases. "Since children are involved, many parents do not wish to pursue the case for long or reveal identities. Many opt to settle it outside the court and go for a compromise. Hence, the conviction rate could be low," Nagannagowda, chairperson, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, told *DH*.

▸ Pocso cases, Page 6

31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

in Loving Memory of

KOTE N.G. BALU REDDY

(16-01-1961 : 19-08-1994)

Celebrating Your Life in Our Memory and Hearts Forever.
We Strive to Live up to Your Legacy each Day. We Miss You Always.

Fondly Remembered by

Harish Balu Reddy, Harshita B, Jagadish N. Reddy, Nikhitha Harish
Ruhika J. Reddy, Agastya Harish Reddy.

3°C drop in mercury across city as monsoon stays active

BENGALURU, DHNS: The mercury has dropped sharply in the city as the southwest monsoon remains active.

The maximum temperature recorded by three full-time observatories — Bengaluru city, HAL airport and Kempegowda International Airport — dropped by over 3°C on Monday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data taken at 5.30 pm.

The maximum temperature in the city was 24.4°C, a drop of 3.6°C. The minimum was 19.4°C, down 0.6°C.

The HAL airport recorded a maximum temperature of 24.6°C, a drop of 3°C, and a minimum of 19°C, 0.6°C below normal.

The KIA's maximum temperature was 24.6°C, a drop of 3.5°C. Its minimum was 20.2°C, slightly above the normal of 19.9°C.

Bengaluru received fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall on Monday. In the 12-hour period ending at 8.30 pm, the city observatory recorded 2.6 mm, the HAL airport 4.4 mm and the Bengaluru Urban automatic weather station 2 mm. The KIA recorded 0.6 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

IMD has forecast cloudy sky, along with light to moderate rainfall for Tuesday.

Commuters exasperated by BBMP's 'apathy' over potholes

Citizens reject Palike's claim it is fixing potholes daily

BENGALURU, DHNS

Continuous rains have once again exposed the poor state of Bengaluru's roads, with commuters struggling to navigate pothole-ridden stretches.

While BBMP officials claim potholes are being fixed daily, commuters disagree.

"There is not a single stretch without potholes. Some are less, some are filled with them. For instance, under the Agara flyover, you will hardly find a road, only potholes," said Sanjay V, a sales executive.

The rains have made commuting more dangerous, with potholes filled with water. "I usually know where the potholes are. But in the rains, you cannot gauge their depth. I have seen many two-wheeler riders lose balance and get injured," said Piyush K, a Yelahanka resident.

Residents allege that the BBMP rarely acts on complaints.

"It has been six months since we flagged the bad state of 80 Feet Road in Uttarahalli on the Sahaaya app. There has been no action, and sometimes complaints are closed without repair," said Karthik V, a resident.

Navigating pothole-filled roads, like this one opposite the Kalasipalyam bus stand, has become a daily struggle for commuters. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Frustrated, a group of 25 residents filled potholes themselves on the Gunjur-Doddakannelli Road on Independence Day, saying they had been requesting repairs for nearly a year.

Commuters have also taken to social media, citing health issues caused by the poor roads.

'Civic cruelty'

"Potholes, unnecessary humps, uneven tar — it is a monumental wreck. I strain my neck to prevent a recurrence of spondylitis. My brother-in-law, who cycles to work, now suffers from a slipped disc due to the bumpy rides. This is not just bad infrastructure, it is civic cruelty," posted Sahana Singh on X.

Senior BBMP officials maintained that they are addressing the issue of potholes.

"If an entire stretch is damaged, we cannot do much during the rains. For now, we are filling potholes," said a senior official.

International awards for KSRTC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said that it had won two awards at the Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards-2025 held in Singapore.

The bus corporation received recognition for institution building and inclusion recruitment programmes.

The KSRTC resumed staff recruitment after a gap of seven years and appointed 300 technical assistants, 2,000 drivers-conductors, and 292 employees under compassionate grounds.

Crack in Ejipura flyover halts work; IISc to review structure

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after a crack appeared in a concrete segment of the under-construction Ejipura flyover, the BBMP has sought expert advice from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Work on the project, already behind schedule, has been temporarily halted.

The crack, which developed on Sunday night, created a deep hole and triggered alarm at the BBMP head office. Top engineers rushed to the site at midnight, as such failures are rare and may require dismantling of the launched segment.

BBMP Chief Engineer Raghavendra Prasad said the damage occurred due to misalignment during placement.

The crack, which developed on Sunday night, created a deep hole. Top BBMP engineers rushed to the site at midnight. PHOTO: BBMP

The civic body has written to IISc professors to conduct an independent study to determine if the segment can be retained. "We have written to IISc today and hope to get the report in the next 2–3 days," said BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao.

He said a vehicle was damaged when chunks of concrete fell from the cracked segment, but no one was injured. "When segment work is underway, staff can make mistakes. In Ejipura, the alignment was not done correctly," he added.

The incident has further delayed the much-awaited flyover.

After the Congress government came to power, the BBMP fixed a December 2025 deadline, later revised to March 2026. Officials now say the flyover may only be ready by June 2026.

Land acquisition for the project also remains incomplete.

After scathing review, DULT dilutes objection to tunnel road project

Softens stand, says its opinion is not that of BMLTA

BENGALURU, DHNS

A month after issuing a scathing report against the BBMP's feasibility study on the controversial tunnel road project, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has softened its stand, saying its comments should not be construed as the opinion of the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA).

In its letter to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), DULT suggested that the civic body consider the instructions of the Urban Development Department (UDD) and the government.

In July 2024, the BBMP sent its feasibility report on the tunnel road to DULT for review and approval. In November 2024, after four months of study, DULT — which functions as the BMLTA's Secretariat — sent its review comments to the BBMP.

The report was critical of the project, saying it did not align with Bengaluru's broader mobility goals and flagged the lack of geological and environmental studies.

However, in December 2024, DULT sent another letter to the BBMP, stating that its November comments should not be construed as those of the BMLTA, which was not yet established.

Mobility experts believe that DULT came under pressure to issue a clarification.

"Basically, it abdicated its role as a regulator. And, the BBMP latched on to the suggestion and obtained government approval on the back of an ad-hoc committee recommendation," independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam said.

He pointed out that the BMLTA Act is already in force and hence, approval for the tunnel road is mandatory. "Its Secretariat DULT is fully functioning; and yet the BMLTA ducked out of the process because of the lame excuse that it is not operational," Arikutharam said.

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Ex-UP MLA booked for rape after 'second wife' files complaint in fit of rage

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru police have booked Bhagwan Sharma alias Gudu Pandit, a former MLA from Uttar Pradesh, following a complaint from a 40-year-old woman, who has claimed to be his second wife.

In a police complaint, the woman alleged that the 51-year-old sexually assaulted her at the Taj Bangalore hotel located near the airport premises on Sunday.

On August 14, Sharma called her to the hotel and took her around the city. He took her to Chitradurga on August 16 before returning to the hotel the following day.

In room 582, he showed her intimate photographs and videos and sexually assaulted her. He also threatened to kill her when she resisted, she alleged.

Based on her complaint, the airport police booked Sharma under Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (sexual intercourse obtained through deceitful means).

The woman initially told the police that Sharma had called her to Bengaluru with the promise of a registered marriage and raped her.

But later, she claimed that she was his second wife and regretted filing the complaint "in a fit of rage".

When *DH* contacted the woman over the phone for a comment, she declined to speak.

A police officer close to the investigation said they had issued a notice to the woman seeking documents related to her marriage with Sharma.

"The woman filed the complaint after quarelling with him. She now claims to be his second wife. We've asked her to submit the marriage documents. We have to follow the procedure," the officer said. "This case has frustrated us."

Sharma was MLA from Debai, Bulandshahar, for two terms, first on the Samajwadi Party ticket and then from the Bahujan Samaj Party. He's presently with the Shiv Sena and lives in Noida. The woman lives in Bulandshahar.

CURTAINS DOWN

Lalbagh flower show concludes with record 5.5 lakh visitors

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 218th Lalbagh flower show that concluded on Monday recorded one of the highest turnouts in recent years — with 5.5 lakh people visiting the Independence Day edition.

Despite the heavy footfall, the garden was free of litter on Monday morning.

M Jagadeesh, Lalbagh Joint Director of Horticulture, said that extra staff and volunteers were deployed to maintain cleanliness and ensure the event remained eco-friendly and plastic-free.

When *DH* visited the garden, volunteers were seen sweeping leaves, clearing rubbish and removing plastic litter. While most areas were clean, food stalls had left behind wet waste and rotting fruit, and the rain had made the mud pathways slippery.

Regular visitors, however, carried on with their routines. "I come here every morning to feed the birds and dogs — it is my ritual," said Anil, a retired businessman.

Additional workers and volunteers were deployed to maintain cleanliness at Lalbagh during the just-concluded flower show. DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA S

This year's show honoured freedom fighters Kittur Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna, highlighting their resistance to British rule. Floral installations recreated the Kittur Fort and Rani Chennamma's memorial, along with depictions of Rayanna's valiant fight until his execution.

Over 12 days, the show drew 6.24 lakh visitors and generated revenue of Rs 2.78 crore. On the final day, 27,310 people visited, including 7,960 adults, 2,400 children and 16,950 students, with a collection of Rs 3.45 lakh.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Bangalore City Institute: World Photography Day; Guest: P Seshadri; Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajpet; 5.30 pm.

Disha Charitable Trust, Suvarna Karnataka Jagruti Vedike: Rajiv Gandhi's birthday celebration; Basava Haralaya Swamiji, Khwaja Sultan Shah Chishti Saharwardi Qadri, Sadanand Banjeji, Giani Boota Singh, Tijo Kochchutharail; Inauguration: Rahim Khan; Bilkis Banu, Y Saeed Ahmed, Raghunath Naidu; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	25.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	5.0mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	91%
Sunset (Aug 19)	6:39 pm
Sunrise (Aug 20)	6:08 am
Moonrise	1:04 am
Moonset	2:33 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
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TENDER NOTICE

IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division invites tender for the following item/job description:

Item/job description	Availability of Tender in GeM Portal
Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) Cake Processing	20.08.2025
Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye	21.08.2025
Procurement of Oxalic Acid Crystal	22.08.2025

For details visit the following websites:
gem.gov.in, www.irel.cd.in/tender-information https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp__
Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.
Date: 14.08.2025 Sd/-
CBC 48145/12/0005/2526 GM & Head, RED

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF FLY ASH AT SGWF

Name of Work	Auction
Description of Auction Sate	Auction of approximately 64 Tons Flyash at Satellite Goods Terminal Whitefield Goods shed.

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 12.30 hrs on 05.09.2025
For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग,
भवन प्रमंडल सं0–2, राँची

शुद्धि –पत्र

एदद् द्वारा भवन निर्माण विभाग के संबन्धित श्रेणी में निबन्धित संवेदकों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि इस कार्यालय का निविदा संख्या–05/2025-26/EE/BCD/DIV-2,RANCHI जिसका P.R. No. 359614 Building (25-26):D है जिसमें UCAN Registration Mandatory को विलोपित किया जाता है।

शेष शर्ते यथावत् रहेगी। कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
भवन निर्माण विभाग,
भवन प्रमंडल सं0–2, राँची

PR 359721 (Building)25-26*D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. DRM (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Adra invites e-tenders for the following works are as follows : **Sl. No.**; **Tender No.**; **Description of work; Tender Value : [1]; No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-61-25, Dtd: 14.08.2025** : **(1)** Through rail renewal (Primary) at km 414.153 to 415:6 (DN), 415.753 to 416.5 (DN) & 414.749-415.602 (UP) in between Tupkadih-Rajabera Block Hut Section (Total-3.047 Tr. Km), at km 321.4 to 323.0 (SL), 317.8 to 318.8 (SL) Tr. Km in between Shewbabudih-Talgaria Section (Total-2.6 Tr. Km), at km 383.07 to 384.67(UP), 384.77 to 386.37(UP), 381.47 to 382.97 (UP), 379.77 to 381.37 (UP), 378.07 to 379.67 (UP) in Kotshila Junction-Bokaro Steel City Section (Total-7.9 Tr. Km) **(2)** Removal of 784 Nos. Dummy Glued Joint at Yard between Bokaro Steel City-Tupkadih, Adra-Gomoh, Midnapore-Bishnupur, Adra-Asansol, Purulia-Chandil, Kotshila-Bokaro Steel City, Adra-Gomoh (JC) and Adra-Bankura section in Adra division; ₹1,64,98,636.53; **[2]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-62-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Construction of drain in connection with the work of improvement of yard under the jurisdiction of SSE (P. Way)/Bhaga and SE (P. Way)/Mohuda; ₹4,11,16,434.36; **[3]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-63-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Execution of P Way work in connection with the work of improvement of yard under the jurisdiction of SSE (P.way)/ Mahuda, SSE (P.way)/Bhojudih and SSE(P.way)/Bhaga.; ₹3,72,68,165.66 **[4]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-64-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Construction of RUB in lieu of manned level crossing BR-99 at km 330/7-8 in between Rainangar-Mathnashipur in Adra division by box pushing method.; ₹7,21,05,733.89; **[5]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-65-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Construction of RUB in lieu of manned level crossing BR-93 at km 324/2-3 in between Shyamsundar-Rainagar in Adra division by box pushing method.; ₹7,48,97,724.61; **[6]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-66-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Construction of RUB in lieu of manned level crossing BR-6 at km 236/2-3 in between Bikna-Nobanda in Adra division by box pushing method; ₹7,11,73,520.62; **[7]**; **No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-67-25, Dtd. 14.08.2025**; Provision of 2 Nos. of lift at Bhaga station over Adra division.; ₹72,57,314.26. The closing date and time of e-tenders is on 15.09.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website www.ireps.gov.in (PR-529)

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, CHAIBASA – 833201

Corrigendum to National Bidding / e-Procurement Notice
(Tender Reference no: - NH/CHAIBASA/STMC/02/2025-26 Dated 23.07.2025)
Corrigendum-I

Subject:- Maintenance & repair of road from Km 0.00 to Km 43.390 of NH-320G for the year 2025-26 under Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC).
Reference is invited to the above mention work with **Tender Reference no: - NH/CHAIBASA/STMC/02/2025-26 dated 23.07.2025** Published on different Newspapers vide NIT PR No. PR358191 (West Singhbhum)25-26*D. In this regard, it is to inform that bid date and bid opening date modified as below:

Sl No.	Item	As per previous modification	As modified.
1	The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app	**05.08.2025** to **20.08.2025** (upto17:00 Hrs. IST).	**25.08.2025** to **08.09.2025** (upto17:00 Hrs. IST).
2	Submission of financial bid and Technical Bid	**20.08.2025** (upto 17:00 Hrs).	**08.09.2025** (upto 17:00 Hrs).
3	Bid opening date	**21.08.2025** (after 15:00 hours IST).	**09.09.2025** (after 15:00 hours IST).

Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Chaibasa
Mob No: -6207723164
Email- eenh.chaibasa@gmail.com
PR 359745 (West Singhbhum) 25-26 (D)

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Excise and Prohibition
Lt. No. 1554
Dt. 18.08.2025

Notice for Settlement of Retail Liquor Shops in the State of Jharkhand

In continuation of the notification advertised through PR No. 359086 Excise (25-26) & PR No. 359676 Excise (25-26) , the following is again brought to the notice of all concerned.
1. Online Application: Applicants may apply online for the settlement of country liquor shops and composite shops at https://exciselottery.Jharkhand.gov.in (application portal) from August 8, 2025, 11:00 AM to August 20, 2025, 07:00 PM.
2. Fees and Deposits: Applicants can deposit the application fee and earnest money deposit through various methods, including Credit Card, Debit Card, Net Banking, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, etc. This must be received and verified in the department's account/portal by August 20, 2025, 11:59 PM.
3. E-Lottery Process: The e-lottery will be conducted through a randomization process on August 22, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

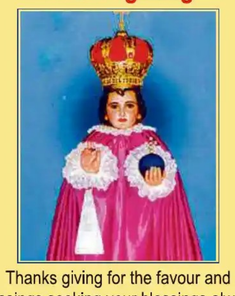
For assistance regarding the e-lottery process, applicants can contact the department help desk or reach out via: General Call: 9430321831, WhatsApp Message: 9508065730, Email: excise.jhr@gmail.com (available from 10 AM to 06 PM daily)

For any banking or payment-related assistance, the following contact details are available: General Call & WhatsApp: 8372059736, General Call: 7766025037 (available from 10 AM to 06 PM daily). Email: prosenjit.das1@hdfc.com and bikram.ghosh@hdfc.com

Please note that the department reserves the right to reschedule the application submission and e-lottery dates.

sd/-Excise Commissioner
Jharkhand, Ranchi.
PR 359751 (Excise)25-26*D

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

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Auto fare revision: Metrology dept begins meter recalibration

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legal Metrology Department has begun meter recalibration and verification in line with the revised auto fares, a senior official said.

"The process is moving slowly as manufacturers are yet to procure the integrated circuit needed to update meters to the new fare of Rs 36 for the first 2 km and Rs 18 for every additional kilometre. But it is in progress, and our inspectors are on the ground," the official told *DH*.

Auto drivers have time till October 31 to get their meters recalibrated and verified. They will be charged Rs 500 for verification — Rs 350 payable to manufacturers and Rs 150 to the department.

Many drivers, however, said they are unaware of the process.

"We have received no official notification about when and where to get the meters recalibrated.

"When I visited the department last week, I was sent back as the process had not begun. I will go again this week," said Ravi AK, a 55-year-old auto driver.

Commuters slam Hebbal flyover loop inauguration during rush hour

Ceremony worsens traffic congestion at busy junction

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Commuters criticised the state government for inaugurating the new flyover loop at Hebbal during Monday morning rush hour, saying it only "worsened" traffic congestion at the busy junction.

The 700-metre ramp, linked to a previously constructed loop, connects Nagawara, KR Puram and Mehkri Circle. It was inaugurated around 11 am by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar and others.

Commuters questioned the need for organising the ceremony during peak hour. Its traffic impact lasted hours.

"Everyone in Bengaluru knows how bad the Hebbal traffic is during peak hours. The government made it worse by hosting the ceremony on a Monday morning after a long weekend," said Rashmi Nanda, 23, who commutes from Jayamahal Extension to Hebbal for work daily. "By the time I reached my office, I was drained and couldn't work," she added.

Another commuter said the delay forced him to log into work from his car. "I was on my way to a meeting, and in the end, I ended up joining the meeting online as the traffic just wouldn't move. What added to my frustration were photos and videos of DK Shivakumar cruising through the flyover on his bike," said Harish, 28.

When *DH* visited the Hebbal flyover early in the afternoon, while the newly opened ramp was smooth and mostly free of traffic, the surrounding roads showed a different picture.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar show the silver maces presented to them at the inauguration of the flyover. DH PHOTO/P S KRISHNA KUMAR

The rest of the Hebbal flyover, Ballari Road, Mehkri Circle and the adjoining roads saw moderate traffic congestion throughout the afternoon.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said adequate steps were taken to ensure the government event would not impact the traffic on the flyover.

"We strictly prohibited the construction of any permanent/semi-permanent structure for the event, and ensured the service roads and the main carriageway on the Hebbal route were fully available to commuters. However, many passersby stopped midway to watch the ceremony," he told *DH*.

A bus breakdown on the flyover around 8 am further worsened the traffic.

Singh expressed hope that the Hebbal flyover will see "great improvement" in the coming days.

"The upcoming loop towards Hebbal will further decongest the junction. We're looking at all factors that can reduce congestion along the Hebbal stretch."

Flyers stuck in long jams

With Hebbal being the main route to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), flyers were in a state of panic. Many feared they'd miss their flights.

Devappa, 30, a taxi driver returning to Rajajinagar from the airport around 10 am, said the traffic on the route came to a standstill for about 90 minutes due to the inauguration ceremony.

"The travel time went up from an hour to almost two hours because of this. The traffic police were trying to improve the situation, but nothing seemed to be working. The customer, a young girl, started panicking," he said.

A traveller from Ahmedabad spent more than two hours trying to reach the CBD from the airport in the afternoon. "It took me nearly the same time to reach Bengaluru from Ahmedabad. Because of this massive jam, I couldn't reach my office in time despite booking an expensive flight,' he said. Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya took to X to call out the government for the "poor" planning, claiming "he almost missed a flight" to Delhi due to being stuck at the Hebbal Junction for 50 minutes.

Save us from monkeys: B'luru South MLCs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Many legislators from Bengaluru South (earlier Ramanagara) district appealed to the state government to save them from the monkey menace in the Legislative Council on Monday.

During a discussion on human-animal conflict, Congress MLC S Ravi tried to draw the attention of the house towards the problem created by the primates in the region. He gave the example of another Congress MLC Sudham Das, who had borne the brunt of the simian invasion of crops.

"Our MLC Sudham Das has over 600 coconut trees, but he was unable to get a single coconut due to the monkey menace," Ravi added.

JD(S) MLC Govindaraju said, "We all are covering our homes in nets to avoid monkeys from entering." Meanwhile, the members alleged that the forest department was dropping the monkeys caught at other places in Ramanagara district.

Minister for Forest and Environment Eshwar Khandre said that he would discuss with department officials to address the issue. He even mentioned that for loss of crops due to animals, the government had paid Rs 47 crore compensation to farmers across the state and this year it had already crossed Rs 27 crore.

Personnel hired for forest frontline posts

In a bid to address the shortage of frontline staff in the forests, the forest department has already hired 310 personnel while the process is on to recruit 540 more, Minister for Forest and Environment Eshwar Khandre said.

Khandre also said that 53 wildlife corridors had been identified across 2,200 sq kms in the State. He assured that in the next two years the department will take necessary measures to prevent wild elephants from entering Human habitats.

"Over the next two years, we aim to complete the remaining length of railway barricades," he added.

Fixing Hebbal: Govt plans 1.5-km tunnel road, new KR Puram-airport flyover

BENGALURU, DHNS

A short tunnel road and a flyover are part of the state government's new plan to decongest Hebbal Junction for vehicles from all directions.

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B.SMILE) plans to build a 1.5-km tunnel road between Esteem Mall and Baptist Hospital, while the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has proposed a flyover from KR Puram towards the airport.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar reviewed these proposals after inaugurating the new loop at the flyover on Monday.

Lanes go up to six

"The new loop has been built at a cost of Rs 80 crore. The other loop, from Esteem Mall towards Mehkri Circle, will be ready by November. The total cost of the project is Rs 300 crore. The new loops increase the number of lanes from two to six," Shivakumar told reporters.

The 1.5-km tunnel road is a separate proposal and is different from the 16.5-km tunnel road project. It is designed to help residents who want to criss-cross Hebbal Junction without taking the tolled tunnel road, it is learnt.

Asked if the new loops of the Hebbal flyover would increase traffic at Mehkri Circle, the deputy chief minister said: "I can't respond to everything that is said."

Bengaluru Rural cops launch QR website, awareness drive to curb cybercrime

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a proactive move to tackle the increasing cybercrime, especially in the rural areas, the Bengaluru Rural District Police have rolled out an awareness campaign which includes launching website and awareness videos about cybercrimes with a victim-centric approach.

The initiative, led by Superintendent of Police Bangalore Rural (SP) CK Baba, aims to arm the public with essential knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely. All police stations in the rural limits, will now have a QR code that will help the public access ad cross-check cybercrime services online. Citizens can now file complaints online through e-mail, WhatsApp and various emergency numbers and portals link provided in the website.

Speaking to *DH* about the new initiative, Baba said that the campaign's focus was on proactive prevention.

The SP said that in case of cybercrimes the golden hour is important, where reporting cybercrimes within the first hour increases the chances of recovering lost funds and freezing fraudsters assets. The drive comes at a critical juncture, with the rural folk as particularly susceptible to online scams.

A key part of the campaign is a new website and a series of awareness videos which is available on the website. The website which was launched on Monday is designed to be a game-changer, allowing victims to file complaints online. This paperless system is a big step towards making the process of reporting cybercrime faster and more accessible for all. He said citizens can reach out to officers directly to report incidents and get updates on the status of their complaints.

The campaign is directed towards creating awareness about using the QR code and to understand a wide range of cyber threats, from common financial frauds like phishing and investment scams to more complex crimes such as identity theft via deepfake impersonation and ransomware attacks.

To ensure a broad reach, the police are not just relying on digital platforms but will also be conducting workshops, seminars, and awareness programmes in partnership with local businesses, schools, and community organisations.

"We want to empower citizens with the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe online. And act immediately, lodge a plaint, save evidence to nab the culprit," Baba added.

Law punishing child sexual abuse gender neutral: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against a 54-year-old Bengaluru woman accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act is gender neutral.

The complainant, mother of the victim, along with her husband and two children, had moved into a community villa in Bengaluru in 2020. The accused, a reputed artist who conducted art lessons for children in the community, was their neighbour. The complainant's family shifted to Dubai in August 2020. After four years, they returned to India, and the mother filed a complaint.

The complaint stated that during their stay in Bengaluru, the accused sexually abused the victim between February and June 2020. It said the victim had become inactive in Dubai and showed psychological changes. When questioned, he confessed that the accused would repeatedly call him to her house and abuse him, warning him not to reveal anything.

The police filed a chargesheet under sections 4 and 6 of the Pocso Act.

Challenging the proceedings before a fast-track court, the accused argued that the complaint lacked credibility as it was delayed. She said the allegations were improbable given the age gap, she being 48 at the time and the boy aged 13 years and 10 months.

She contended that sections 4 & 6 could not apply to a woman, claiming a woman cannot rape a man. The complainant countered that the definition of 'a person' under the Pocso Act includes women, and cited data showing 53% of sexual abuse victims are minor boys.

Justice Nagaprasanna said delays in filing an FIR in cases of child sexual assault cannot be equated with other offences. The court held that the Pocso Act, as a progressive enactment, is meant to safeguard the sanctity of childhood.

"It is rooted in gender neutrality with its beneficent object being the protection of all children, irrespective of sex. The Act is thus gender neutral. Sections 3 and 5, which form the foundation for offences under Sections 4 and 6, delineate various forms of assault. Although some provisions may employ gendered pronouns, the preamble and purpose render such usage inclusive. Therefore, it covers both male and female," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court also said, "The submission that, in an intercourse the woman is only a passive participant, and a man is an active participant is noted only to be emphatically rejected, as the thought itself is archaic. The jurisprudence of the present times embraces the livid realities of victims and does not allow stereotypes to cloud legal scrutiny."

High court imposes Rs 10k cost on Bagepalli MLA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court has imposed a cost of Rs 10,000 on Congress MLA from Bagepalli S N Subbareddy who failed to appear for cross-examination in a petition challenging his election.

Justice M G S Kamal passed this order on August 13, stating the cost would be payable to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority.

The court was hearing the petition filed by C Muniraju, the BJP candidate who lost to Subbareddy in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The advocate for the MLA filed an interlocutory application seeking exemption from appearance for cross-examination due to the ongoing session of the Assembly, which ends on August 22.

The counsel for the petitioner opposed this and submitted that Subbareddy was personally present during the previous hearing on August 4 and that he could not claim to be unaware of the Assembly schedule. It was also submitted that the date and the time for cross-examination was suggested by the MLA himself.

The court observed that the matter had been adjourned on several occasions at the request of the MLA for one or the other reason by filing interlocutory applications.

The court said such adjournments had consumed time beyond the statutory time prescribed for disposal of the petition.

"Adjournments are given to meet ends of justice and to ensure that the parties are given substantial opportunity of being heard. This should not indicate that the adjournment can be granted at the mere asking, particularly on the ground as sought to be canvassed in the present application, more so as already noted, when the date and time of today's hearing was fixed in the presence and upon the instructions given by respondent number 1 (Subbareddy) himself," Justice Kamal said.

The court granted time, stating that no further adjournment shall be sought by Subbareddy and that he shall co-operate in expeditious disposal of the matter. It has been posted to August 29.

Stampede effect: Seats at Mysuru palace reduced for Dasara Jamboo Savari

MYSURU, DHNS

The Mysuru Dasara executive committee has decided to reduce the number of seats for spectators on the palace premises to watch the Jamboo Savari on the Vijayadashami day, the finale of the festivities.

The number will be down by 11,600 from last year, in the wake of the stampede that claimed 11 lives and left several injured near Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, during the celebration of RCB's victory in the IPL on June 4.

According to officials, considering the stampede, the Dasara high-power committee meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah decided to reduce the number of seats to 48,000.

Last year, 59,600 seats were arranged for people to watch the Jamboo Savari. In 2023, the number was 38,000.

Officials said there will be strict adherence to the 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP) formulated by the police department after the Bengaluru stampede. This year, Mysuru Dasara will be held from September 22 to October 2.

The entry to the palace to witness the procession is by passes. 'Gold cards' and tickets can also be purchased for the same. Sources said that at a recent meeting of the executive committee, chaired by district incharge Minister H C Mahadevappa, it was decided to arrange only 48,000 seats and to issue passes, tickets and cards accordingly.

The number of all types of passes, including VVIP and VIP, will be reduced, it is said.

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Assembly passes amendment to Coop Societies Act

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Assembly on Monday passed The Karnataka Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill amid elaborate deliberations over a clause to provide reservations in co-operative societies to SCs, STs, OBCs and women.

The Bill seeks to amend the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959. Initiating discussion on the amendment, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "You all know that in panchayats, there are reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes (BC) and women. The way we have given social justice in politics, we are also providing it in economic organisations like cooperatives."

According to the amendment, the posts of president and vice-president of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), Milk Producers Cooperative Societies (MPCS), and other Primary Assisted Societies will have reservations on a rotational basis.

Land crunch: We're buying space for taluk offices, says KBG

'In 3 to 4 taluks, govt purchased land to build facility'

BENGALURU, DHNS

IN THE ASSEMBLY

Public lands have become so scarce that the government has had to purchase space to build taluk offices, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Gowda was responding to multiple questions by lawmakers M T Krishnappa, K Y Nanjegowda and others on the grant of lands under Bagair Hukum (unauthorised cultivation).

"Among the new taluks that were formed, in 3-4 of them, we have to purchase land to build taluk offices, or Praja Soudhas," Gowda said. "We have to purchase land to provide burial grounds. We've not been able to provide land for 12,000 Anganwadis. We're having to purchase land for Morarji schools," he added.

Krishna Byre Gowda

Scarcity of land is such that Gowda said governments will have to think about how land can be provided to schools and playgrounds.

"There are three Supreme Court cases, important among them being Jaspal Singh vs Haryana, which have said that public lands such as Gomala and Devarakadu can't be granted," Gowda pointed out.

"Every family is getting divided into three. From where should land be provided for housing, which is a basic right? Between land and housing, what should we prioritise? Where's the space for housing? How much land can we purchase?" Gowda said.

In the last three years, Gowda said 8.93 lakh applications have been received seeking regularisation of illegal cultivation on government land. Of them, 6.49 lakh have been rejected.

Gowda said rejections are high due to discrepancies in applications.

"The law says applicants must have been doing cultivation before 2005. But 42,289 applicants were under 18 years of age, some were only 2-3 years and some weren't even born. There are 7,564 applicants who already have 5 acres of land, 33,632 who've encroached roads, 1 lakh of them claiming forest land and so on," Gowda explained.

'Kolar golf course has encroached govt land'

The Confident Champion Reef Golf course in Kolar has encroached upon 40% of government land, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Assembly citing a law department report. Gowda was responding to a question by Bangarpet MLA S N Narayanaswamy.

"This a private golf course that has B-kharab land on its premises. They want it granted. The MLA argues that it can be done as per law. But the law allows only those land-locked B-kharab in and around urban areas," Gowda said.

"In March, I sent this to the Cabinet for a decision. The law department said there's been 40% encroachment. It has recommended recovery of land, penalty and legal action," he said.

When Narayanaswamy said he had documents to prove that the B-kharab in question is not at all government land, Gowda said he would constitute a committee under the Bengaluru regional commissioner to verify this.

Govt faces criticism over woeful school infra, teacher shortage

BENGALURU

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Monday informed the Karnataka Legislative Council that the state government will soon issue a fresh notification to develop over 100 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) in the Kalyana Karnataka Division. This is in addition to 500 similar schools across the state that have already been approved by the department.

During a calling attention debate raised by BJP MLC C T Ravi about the poor condition of school buildings in the state, Madhu Bangarappa said the government has allocated Rs 100 crore exclusively to rebuild and repair damaged classrooms and buildings. He added that district administrations have been asked to send detailed reports on dilapidated school buildings.

Ravi pointed out that government schools across the state were facing a shortage of about 36,000 classrooms and questioned who should take responsibility for this. This sparked a long discussion in the Council.

Several opposition members, along with Ravi, highlighted the shortage of classrooms and the dilapidated condition of buildings that put students' lives at risk. Some ruling party members also expressed concern.

BJP and JD(S) members criticised Madhu Bangarappa, saying there are not enough teachers in government schools. They claimed high school students cannot properly read or write Kannada. They also said schools in Kalyana Karnataka are not getting enough funds.

BJP's A H Vishwanath accused the government of trying to close government schools to help the private schools thrive.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa replies to a question in the Legislative Council on Monday.

MADHU BANGARAPPA
Minister for School Education and Literacy

"I do not want to blame anyone, but these problems are inherited from the past. When I took charge, government schools were in ICU. Now, we are working to improve them.

Madhu Bangarappa admitted to a shortage of classrooms and blamed previous governments and education ministers for the problem.

He said, "I do not want to blame anyone, but these problems are inherited from the past. When I took charge, government schools were in ICU. Now, we are working to improve them."

Ravi suggested merging small schools. Madhu Bangarappa welcomed this idea and said it would be reviewed and acted upon.

A total of 61,690 teacher posts - 50,104 in primary schools and 11,586 in high schools - are lying vacant across Kalyana Karnataka and other regions.

Govt plans IISc-led study on Baldota steel plant amid public opposition

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M B Patil on Monday said that the government was considering commissioning an independent environmental study through the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, to respect the sentiments of concerned citizens opposing the Baldota Steel & Power Limited (BSPL) project in Koppal.

M B Patil

The study, estimated to cost Rs 50 lakh, will scientifically assess the long-term ecological impact of industrial activities in the region.

However, Patil clarified that the government could not halt the BSPL project, as the company - part of the Baldota conglomerate - had already received required environmental and forest clearances from the central government in 2021.

The minister made these remarks in the Council, in response to BJP member Hemalata Naik's strong objections to the proposed steel plant.

Acknowledging the growing environmental concerns surrounding the project, Patil said the findings of the IISc-led environmental study were expected to be submitted soon.

In a written response, the minister provided details on the existing industrial landscape in Koppal district.

He informed the House that the district currently hosts 28 sponge iron and iron-processing units, which have collectively attracted Rs 4,683 crore in investments and generated employment for 7,048 people.

Patil explained that the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, granted BSPL permission to establish a 3.5 million tonnes per annum integrated steel plant and a 295-MW captive power plant.

"This approval follows the environmental clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, on July 27, 2021. Subsequently, KSPCB issued the establishment consent on July 19, 2024. The total estimated cost of the project stands at Rs 17,979 crore," the minister's reply said.

Student enrolment decreasing in govt schools

'Govt making efforts to attract admissions'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The enrolment of students at state government schools has decreased in the state during the post-Covid years.

The data provided by the Department of School Education and Literacy on Monday before the Legislative Council revealed that the number of admissions at government-run primary and high schools has been going down every year for the last three years.

The total students enrolled at government primary and high schools during the 2022-23 academic year was 45,46,523, and the same dipped by 2.52 lakh in 2023-24, with total admissions of 42,94,461. In the year 2024-25, government schools managed to attract 40,74,525, which again decreased by 2.19 lakh compared to the previous year. Responding to the issue raised by Congress MLC Anil Kumar on Monday, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that efforts are underway to attract admissions.

"Not having pre-primary education at government schools all these years was one of the reasons for low admissions. With the setting up of pre-primary classes and also by providing bilingual education, we are hoping to increase admissions," said the minister.

The minister informed the House that the intention of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) is to attract admissions, as these schools offer education from Lower Kindergarten to Pre-University.

Intervening in the discussion, Chairman of the House Basavaraj Horatti advised the minister to set up KPS following all norms. During the discussion, some legislators demanded that the government start KPS even in urban areas, as there are needy students.

School strength

Year	Govt schools	Aided schools	Pvt schools
2022-23	45,46,523	12,49,310	45,26,310
2023-24	42,94,461	12,31,933	46,97,709
2024-25	40,74,525	11,86,214	48,36,966

'Not a single govt school closed'

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa claimed that not even a single primary school in the state has been closed due to the lack of admissions.

During a debate on admissions dropping at government schools, he said, "There were demands to close low admission schools, but we have not closed any school because of fewer admissions, and we will not close in the future either."

However, as per the details shared, one government high school at Hulikal in Tumkur district was closed due to a shortage of students during the 2023-24 academic year.

MADHU BANGARAPPA
Minister for School Education and Literacy

"Not having pre-primary education at government schools all these years was one of the reasons for low admissions. With the setting up of pre-primary classes and also by providing bilingual education, we are hoping to increase admissions

Lifestyle reason for rise in heart attack cases: Ministers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday attributed sudden deaths related to cardiac issues to sedentary lifestyle and poor food habits.

Advising people not to panic, they clarified that the number of such cases had not risen compared to earlier years. "Main reasons for heart problems are lifestyle changes and food habits. Following a good diet, daily exercise, yoga and meditation will help maintain heart health," Patil said.

He added that about 5%–6% of overall cases were heart-related. Rejecting theories linking heart attacks to Covid vaccines, Patil said, "There is no evidence. Even the committee headed by the Jayadeva Institute director has denied such links."

"Multiple factors cause heart attacks. For those with hypertension and diabetes, we are giving permanent medication as these are the root causes of many diseases," he said.

Rao said the government would extend the tele-ECG facility to all taluk hospitals and PHCs, up from the 86 hospitals currently covered.

Data tabled in the House showed 1,004 heart attack-related deaths at PHCs in the last three years, while the Jayadeva Institute reported 6.12 lakh cases, including 472 deaths of patients below 45 years.

DH Classifieds

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Finance

MSME LOANS
Available for Any Startup Companies,Any Existing Companies NOTE:Also One Approved Loan Available Contact-7204995189

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology-9880916988

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ravindranath Aladakatti, residing at # EV-104, Vijnanapura IISc Quarters, RMV, 2nd stage, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560094, have changed my name to RAVINDRANATH HANUMANTHAPPA ALADAKATTI vide affidavit dated 15.08.2025 before notary Meera H, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ashutosh C Sirdeshpande S/o Chidambar R Sirdespande and Mother Gayatri C Sirdeshpande residing at A1001, 10th Floor, Hoysala Samruddhi Apt, Talakaveri Layout, Amuruthalli, Bangalore-560092, have changed my name from Ashutosh Sirdeshpande to Ashutosh C Sirdeshpande vide affidavit dated 14.08.2025 before notary A Manjula , Bengaluru

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, R. Vasudev Rao, R/at #9/7, 3rd Cross, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Banglore-560011, have lost Original Property Document, Document / Identification: BNG(UR) JNR 2609 2006-2007, Pg-8 & 9, while in shifting the house. Finders please Contact No: 9611918239.

CAUTION NOTICE
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Advertisement Manager
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Bengaluru

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or
Scan QR code to access booking form

In Fond Remembrance

Dr. S.SRIKANTAN
6-9-1933 19-8-2006
Former-Chairman, ASM Technologies Ltd.,
Former-Managing Director, KEONICS
Former-Head Computer Group, ECIL, Hyd.
Guided we move forward, attempting to perfect every single day, truely inspired by his vision & philosophy.
mail: r_srikantan@yahoo.com

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

N.G BALU REDDY
19.08.1994

ANITHA. BALU REDDY
12.01.2021
"It is a pleasure to remember you, but your absence a deep sorrow"
Remembered by
N.G Nirmala VRR & Family.
From VRR & Co. Builders

No eligible candidates for VC posts: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is finding it difficult to fill up the posts of vice chancellors at the state-run universities due to lack of eligible candidates.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar informed the Legislative Council regarding this on Monday by citing the example of Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University. Responding to the question by BJP MLC H S Gopinath, the minister said, "We have invited applications for the post of vice chancellor at Dr Gangubai Hangal University, but since the candidates applied for the post didn't meet eligibility criteria, we had to hold back the appointment."

Meanwhile, the minister clarified to the House that there is no provision in the Act to continue with the former vice chancellor.

"The provision to extend the term of the vice chancellor is available only at Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU). I will discuss the issue with the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," Sudhakar stated.

The tenure of Nagesh Bettakote as vice chancellor of the music university ended in January 2025 and since then the post is lying vacant. He has continued as in-charge vice chancellor. According to the sources, six universities are running without a regular/full-time vice chancellor.

Of the six universities, the government has constituted a search panel for the selection of new vice chancellor and invited applications for Gulbarga, Bengaluru City and Gangubai Hangal varsites. In the case of Maharani Cluster, Nrupatunga and Mandya universities, no committee has been formed for selection of vice chancellors.

The data shared before the Council reveals that the department of higher education has received 175 applications for Gulbarga University, 109 for Bengaluru City University and 14 for Gangubai Hangal University.

Meanwhile, reacting about the cabinet sub-committee formed to study the finances of universities headed by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Dr Sudhakar said, "The committee had convened three meetings but not yet submitted any recommendations. It will soon submit the recommendations."

MINISTERS' MUSINGS

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar and Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil discuss a point in the Legislative Council on Monday.

'Shakti' enters Golden Book of World Records

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress government's flagship guarantee, the free bus travel scheme for women domiciled in Karnataka, has entered the Golden Book of World Records for facilitating over 500 crore rides in over two years.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that the Shakti scheme facilitated 504.9 bus rides from June 11, 2023, to July 20, 2025. "This is a moment of pride for the entire state," he wrote on X.

He noted that women's participation in the state's industrial sector had significantly increased due to the scheme, helping Karnataka become No 1 in per capita income in the country. "My belief that the Shakti scheme empowers women socially, educationally, economically and industrially has not gone in vain," he said.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said implementing the scheme was not easy.

"Transport corporations had not added new buses for five years, no new recruitment had taken place and the corporations were under heavy debt. In such a challenging situation, working together as one team and successfully leading the Shakti Scheme has given me immense personal satisfaction," he stated.

Since the scheme's launch, he went on, the RTCs have added 5,800 new buses, recruited 10,000 personnel, secured government assistance of Rs 2,000 crore to clear debts, and recorded a significant increase in ridership. Citing a study titled 'Beyond Free Rides' by the Sustainable Mobility Network, he said women's employment increased by 23% in Bengaluru and 21% in Hubballi-Dharwad due to the scheme.

HM orders action against man who alleged 'CM behind 24 murders'

We will act mercilessly, says Parameshwara

Home Minister G Parameshwara speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar look on.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara told the Legislative Assembly on Monday that he had ordered legal action against a person whose two-year-old video claiming that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was involved in 24 murders has gone viral.

The issue was raised by the opposition BJP in the House, questioning the government's "inaction" against the person who levelled the allegations against the chief | minister.

The BJP, Parameshwara and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who spoke about this, did not take names, but they are said to be referring to Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, president of obscure outfits called the Rashtriya Hindu Jagarana Vedike and the Praja Prabhutva Vedike.

Thimarody is seeking justice for Soujanya, a college girl whose 2012 rape and murder in Dharmasthala remains unsolved. Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka asked why the government hadn't acted against the person.

"The person, who demanded a probe into alleged mass murders at Dharmasthala, has claimed that the CM was involved in murders. Allegations are being made against the CM during the legislature session. Is this a goond a state?" he asked.

BJP's S Suresh Kumar said "untreated sewage" was flowing on social media. "If a person can say that the CM committed 28 murders and immediate action isn't taken, how can we tolerate it?" he said.

Shivakumar intervened and pointed out that the person had made allegations against a BJP national general secretary as well. "What I'm trying to say is that we shouldn't name such people and make them leaders," he said.

Parameshwara said the government was not helpless. "Let's not make that person (who has made allegations) big. There are multiple cases against that person. I've given instructions that action must be taken against him. We'll ensure he's punished under the law. We'll act mercilessly," Parameshwara said.

Subsequently, Parameshwara informed the Assembly that the allegations were made on May 27, 2023. "He didn't speak now. I don't know why the opposition raised this now," he said.

In 2023, Thimarody had echoed Belthangady's BJP MLA, Harish Poonja, who had alleged that "Siddaramaiah had killed 24 Hindus".

"Either Harish Poonja must go to jail or Siddaramaiah must go to jail. One of the two must happen," he had said and asked the police to register a case suo motu.

Based on Poonja's speech, an FIR was registered at the Belthangady police station alleging that he attempted to incite hatred between religions.

Thimarody clarified that he had only echoed the MLA. "I only questioned the statement made by Harish Poonja... Your MLA is sitting right here — arrest him first. You cannot take an old statement and issue a blanket accusation."

He called the issue a "conspiracy to stall the SIT investigation into the Dharmasthala killings".

Over 4,200 receive degrees at SASTRA's 39th convocation

(Left to right) Dr S Swaminathan, Prof R Sethuraman, Puneet Dalmia and Dr S Vaidhyasubramaniam

Delivering the 39th convocation address of SASTRA Deemed University on Sunday, Puneet Dalmia, MD and CEO, Dalmia Bharat Ltd, said, "The idea of a rising India and the time for thinking big have come together for graduates to leverage their career potential with a careful blend of ancient wisdom and modern technology". India's transition from a fragile economy to the fourth-largest is a signal for responsible growth and sustainable development, he said.

Over 4,200 students were conferred undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral degrees in engineering sciences, management, law, educations and arts. The Founder-Chancellor's best doctoral thesis awards for engineering, sciences and non-STEM disciplines were awarded to Dr Jayanth Sharma, Dr S Harshavardhan and Dr Amrith Bhargav respectively.

The Best Outgoing B.Tech. Graduate Awards were presented to Adhappan Vishnu (CSE) and Lalitha Tejaswi (CS – AI&DS).

SASTRA's Chancellor Prof R Sethuraman presided over the convocation, Dr S Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice Chancellor, delivered the welcome address and presented the annual report, and Dr S Swaminathan, Dean - Planning and Development was present.

DH SASTRA Deemed University

Curated by DH Brandspot

Ravi for HC judge-monitored probe in Soujanya murder case

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP leader and former minister C T Ravi on Monday alleged that a well-planned conspiracy was underway to tarnish the image of religious institutions — particularly Dharmasthala — on the pretext of seeking justice in the Soujanya case.

He demanded a transparent and impartial investigation, conducted under the supervision of a sitting judge of the High Court, rather than just a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

C T Ravi

Ravi was speaking at a seminar organised by the Punyakshetra Samrakshana Samiti, which aimed to unravel the "truths and myths" surrounding the Soujanya case and the allegations against Dharmasthala.

"We do not oppose an SIT," Ravi clarified, "but for true justice and public confidence, the probe must be led by a sitting judge".

He accused certain groups of manipulating public sentiment with hidden agendas.

Religious conversions

"This is not a genuine fight for justice. It is a deliberate narrative designed to shatter the religious faith of millions. Those who benefit from religious conversions are behind this," he charged.

Ravi questioned the selective outrage of activists and political leaders.

"Why is there silence when a Maulvi rapes a minor? Why don't they speak about Love Jihad or the Neha Hiremath murder case?" he said, alleging that the ongoing campaign specifically targeted Dharmasthala, while ignoring similar incidents elsewhere.

Highlighting the international attention the issue has garnered, Ravi pointed to recent coverage by Al Jazeera from Dubai and criticised the government for its inaction.

"When derogatory remarks are made against celebrities, arrests happen quickly. But here, despite blatant defamation of a spiritual institution, not a single case has been filed," he said.

Ravi alleged that urban naxal elements had more sway over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah than religious sentiments of citizens.

"There are dangerous people advising the CM," he claimed. He hinted at an internal political conspiracy involving the deputy chief minister and urged the government to investigate and act, if such plots were confirmed.

Ravi asserted, "Whether it is Allah or Manjunatha, the guilty must be punished. And those misguiding the public must be held accountable".

BJP sees Cong high command's hand in 'smear campaign'

Heggade's brother welcomed move to form SIT: Congress MLA

BENGALURU, DHNS

A political storm erupted in the Assembly on Monday between the BJP and the Congress after BJP's Karkala MLA V Sunil Kumar claimed that a "smear campaign" against Dharmasthala was being carried out on the "directions" of the Congress high command.

When the BJP raised questions about the manner in which the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been formed, Congress' Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna claimed that he was at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's residence when Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade's brother met him and "welcomed" the decision to form an SIT.

Expressing his disapproval to Parameshwara's answer, Kumar said: "There are tens of people behind that masked man. What's the background of those asking for the probe? The government is carrying out a smear campaign against Dharmasthala and is with a group which wants to malign Hindu places of worship. This smear campaign is as per the directions of their high command".

Taking severe exception to this statement, dozens of Congress legislators protested.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, district in-charge minister of Dakshina Kannada, and Minister M B Patil were among those who objected.

During the ensuing face-off, a batch of legislators including Malavalli MLA P M Narendraswamy stormed into the well of the House. At this point, Speaker U T Khader adjourned the House.

After the session resumed, the BJP continued its attack on the Congress. Mangalore North MLA Bharath Shetty said: "There are newspaper reports that an elected representative, MP level, is behind this. He is a former IAS officer. We don't have any proof, but it came in the papers. It was there on TV channels also. So, we have a doubt that there are different forces trying to stir peace here".

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said he knew who were behind this.

"We know who are with the CM and who all have visited him. We want facts. The government is part of this conspiracy". After this, the Opposition staged a walkout.

Yettinahole: VJNL says can't punish officials for retrospective land change

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) has submitted that no individual may be held responsible for the violations of the forest rules during the execution of Yettinahole integrated drinking water project and requested for clearance to restart the project work.

The project to divert 24.01 tmc of west-flowing water from the streams of Western Ghats has seen multiple delays, leading to cost escalation with the latest revision in January 2023 putting the numbers at Rs 23,251.66 crore.

Last month, the forest advisory committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFF) of the union government had ordered a halt to the Yettinahole work pointing to the site inspection report of the ministry's regional officers. The report had listed several violations, including taking up work in 266.55 acre of forest land without clearance from the ministry. VJNL submitted a detailed response defending its officials and contractors working on the project.

Referring to the FIR registered by the forest department in 2019, the state-owned company said the work was carried out as per revenue records that classified the area as forest lands.

On the violations, VJNL said the 266.45 acres was "neither classified as forest land in official records nor identified as forest on the ground" and the entire patch was agricultural farmland "supported by valid revenue records".

The lands were under possession and cultivation of local farmers and FIR was booked for only 0.04 ha (0.09 acre) in Ramadevara range.

"No individual may be held personally responsible for the non-willful violation that occurred during the execution of the Yettinahole project, which was carried out on revenue land, now retrospectively classified as forest land. Hence, it is requested not to initiate any action against either individual or department," it said.

Bridges for elephants

VJNL promised to submit once again a detailed wildlife mitigation plan based on discussions with the deputy conservator of forests, Hassan division.

The new plan includes fencing on both sides of the canal with crossovers at regular intervals based on the elephant corridor map.

Responding to the suggestion to explore tunnelling, instead of open canal system, the VJNL executive engineer said the soil and rock strata lack the structural stability necessary for the safe construction of a tunnel. It said precautionary measures have been taken to prevent soil erosion.

TB dam faces 'structural risk' due to govt's inaction: BYV

BENGALURU, DHNS: Raising concerns over the worsening condition of the crest gates of the Tungabhadra dam, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Monday strongly criticised the government, saying its continued inaction had resulted in severe strain on the dam's structure.

He demanded that all 33 crest gates of the dam be replaced immediately to prevent further structural risk and water loss. Addressing reporters here, recalling the collapse of the 19th crest gate in August 2024 which caused widespread panic among farmers and loss of thousands of cusecs of water, he said the government failed to provide a permanent solution, even after such a critical failure.

Dharmasthala: Family seeks reinvestigation into 2012 double murder case

MANGALURU, DHNS

The family of Narayana and his sister Yamuna, who were allegedly brutally murdered at Dharmasthala on September 21, 2012, has appealed to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in Belthangady to reinvestigate the case to identify the culprits and ensure justice.

In their petition, Narayana's son and daughter Ganesh and Bharathi alleged that Narayana had been living in his ancestral house at Burje, Dharmasthala, along with his sister Yamuna. Narayana was allegedly facing constant pressure and death threats to vacate the property for five years. In the petition, they mentioned the names of some prominent persons from Dharmasthala.

The complaint stated that Narayana was assaulted twice in his courtyard and, on September 20, 2012, was directly threatened. He and his sister had returned home after watching a play on the night of September 21. Locals discovered their bodies the next day — Narayana's head was smashed with a stone, and Yamuna killed using a grinding stone. As no valuables or money were looted, the family believed the murders were solely motivated by the intention to acquire their property, the complaint said.

Although a complaint was lodged with the then superintendent of police, no proper action was taken, they alleged in the complaint.

In the acknowledgement of the complaint, the SIT team said, "The complaint is being verified. Any information or complaint regarding a criminal act will be forwarded to the local jurisdictional police station for further action."

Ganesh and Bharathi told mediapersons that their father Narayana had retired as a mahout in Dharmasthala.

"We were at our grandmother's house and attending school when father and aunt were murdered," they said.

THE SIT TEAM

"The complaint is being verified. Any information or complaint regarding a criminal act will be forwarded to the local jurisdictional police station for further action.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka

Forecast Aug 19: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	23.8	19.8	39.3
Bidar	28	20.5	27.4
Vijayapura	28.4	21	08
Dharwad	25	19	16
Haveri	23.8	21	17.2
Kalaburagi	29.9	21.6	10
Raichur	28.4	22	32.6
COASTAL			
Honnavar	26.6	22.5	85.1
Karwar	27.2	24.2	69.9
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	27.4	22.6	17.6

INTERIOR SOH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	187.5
Bengaluru	24.6	19.4	5.2
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	27.2	21	03
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	25.5	20.2	11.6
Davangere	24.5	19	8.4
Hassan	23.4	19.7	01
Mysuru	26.8	20	04
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.6	18.3	13.8

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	34.2	24.8	01
Kolkata	33.6	27.6	0.4
Mumbai	27.2	24.1	99
Chennai	31.6	24.6	06
Pune	29	21.8	01
Hyderabad	28.2	21	29
Th'puram	29.8	25.3	01

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Annexe Building-03, Ground Floor, Head Office, No. 4&5, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru-560002.
No.DCF/PR/08/2025-26 Date:18.08.2025
TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
Subject: Appointment of Tree Enumerators Consolidated Pay basis for a period of 02 months.
Regarding the above matter, It is proposed to recruit **10 Tree Enumerators** on merit basis for a period of 02 months, to check and identify trees/branches that are in danger, diseased, in danger of falling, causing harm to public life/property & traffic system, dry trees/branches standing on roads / public places within the boundaries of the BBMP zone / Assembly constituency and To report a detailed report to the concerned zonal level officers once a week and to carry out scientific inspection of trees as directed by the superiors and report to the concerned officer on a consolidated pay of Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand Rupees Only) per month.
Application forms should be submitted to the Deputy Conservator of the Forests' Office by registering the names of the candidates **from 19.08.2025 to 29.08.2025 upto 5.00 PM.**
Eligibility Conditions :
1) Educational Qualification : B.Sc. Forestry, B.Sc. Agriculture, Horticulture, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science & Any Biological Science. **2) Experience :** Experience certificate of working in forest / Agricultural field. All the documents/details as per the above mentioned eligibility conditions should be submitted by registered post to the above address by **5.30 PM on 30.08.2025.** Applications received after the last date will not be accepted.
For more details, you can contact us at **701964699/ 9480685467/ 9480683047** during office hours.
Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/AEE-1/Tender-15/2025-26 Date: 18.08.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)
The tenders have been invited for **Drilling of Borewells and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 516, 519, 566, 567, 568, 570, 571 and 594/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **18.08.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **02.09.2025.** The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer-1 KREIS
DIPR/CP/YC/2365/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF STATE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
No. 4, 100 Ft. Ring Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru-560 085. Tel. No. 26980100 Fax : 26422377
E-Mail : **dpi.desert-ka@nic.in** Website : **http://dsert.kar.nic.in**
No.: E-58080/DSERT/PLAN/NILA/3/2025-PME Date: 18.08.2025
SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
A short-term e-tender is invited through e-procurement for the printing of the **"Baalige Belaku"** primers and the **"Savi Baraha"** work books as part of the implementation of the Ullas-Nav Bharat Literacy Program. The last date for submission of applications from eligible printers is **28.08.2025.** Further information can be viewed at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For more details, you may contact the **Mass Education Section of the DSERT Office.**
Sd/- Director, DSERT, Bengaluru

POWER COMPANY OF KARNATAKA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN: U40101KA2007SGC043640)
5th Floor, KPTCL Building, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009
Ph: 080-2221 0685 / 2229 4390, Email: director.com2024@gmail.com
No. PCKL/A18/638/2025-26/3005 DATE: 18.08.2025
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Bids for placing of Rs.1 crore in Fixed Deposits with Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Private scheduled commercial Banks as per FD, GoK guidelines. (through e-procurement portal)
Power Company of Karnataka Limited (PCKL), a Government of Karnataka undertaking, invites competitive Bids through e-procurement portal for placing Rs.1 Crore in Fixed Deposits.
The eligible banks may access BID document from the e-procurement portal **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://www.pckl.karnataka.gov.in from 21.08.2025, 11 am onwards.**
For further details contact the **Director (Commercial), 5th Floor, #505, KPTCL Building, PCKL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009. Contact Number – 9448090774. Email ID – director.com2024@gmail.com**
Sd/- Director (Commercial) PCKL, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA NIRAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, R&R Division, Athani - 591304. Taluk: Athani, Dist: Belagam.
No:KNNL/R&R/PB/TND/WSRC-3&NVLB/2025-26/756 Date: 14-08-2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Electronic percentage tender through KPP Platform **KW-3 and KW-2** Basis in **Two Cover System** is invited by the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, R&R Division, Athani** on behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building No.1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 01 for the work of **1) KPP I.No. 3055, 2) KPP I.No. 3056, 3) KPP I.No. 3057, 4) KPP I.No. 3148.** The blank tender documents can be obtained and uploaded through KPPP **between 19-08-2025 at 10.30 AM to 26-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Last Date for Tender Queries and Pre Bid: **25-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **26-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **28-08-2025 at 11.00 AM. 5)** Opening of Financial Bid: **03-09-2025 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Stipulated Period **Sl.No. 1, 2 & 3 is 09 Months & Sl.No. 4 is 06 Months including monsoon. 7)** Amount Put to Tender (Ex. GST) for **1) Rs. 135.76 Lakhs, 2) Rs. 97.53 Lakhs, 3) Rs. 225.65 Lakhs, 4) Rs. 82.25 Lakhs** and **8)** Class of Contractor **KPWD Class-III and above** Registered Contractors for **Sl.No. 1,2,4** and **KPWD Class-II and above for Sl.No. 3**
Any information required in this regard can be had from the e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and **Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, R&R Division, Athani** of this office Telephone: **08289-285031** during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer KNNL, R&R Division, Athani.
DIPR/Belagavi/835/Adverto/2025-26

Heavy rains batter North Karnataka, Malnad; dams almost full

Holiday for schools, colleges in several districts today

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rains continued to pummel Malnad, coastal districts and many parts of north and south interior Karnataka on Monday. The district administrations of several districts, including Dharwad, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, have declared a holiday for schools and PU colleges on Tuesday in view of the heavy rain forecast.

The Uttara Kannada district and Malnad region are experiencing torrential rain, coupled with gusty winds, while those in the plains are witnessing incessant showers.

Relentless rain has spurred water levels in the reservoirs of the Krishna basin. Hidkal (Raja Lakhamgouda) dam is almost full. With the dam receiving copious inflows, the authorities are expected to release over 30,000 cusec anytime soon.

The Naviluthirtha dam, across the Malaprabha river, near Saundatti, is just short of one-and-a-half feet from reaching its full reservoir level.

Tunga and Bhadra reservoirs in Shivamogga district are almost full, thanks to incessant rain in their catchments.

The Tungabhadra river at Kudali in Shivamogga, where Tunga and Bhadra rivers meet, is in spate following heavy discharges from Tunga dam (77,000 cusec) and Bhadra reservoir (40,000 cusec). The Varahi project area witnessed 238 mm of rain in the last 24 hours (ending 8.30 am on Monday). Hulikal received 220 mm of rain while Agumbe and Yadur saw 206 and 200 mm of rain respectively.

More than 10,000 cusec of water was released from Malaprabha (Naviluthirtha) dam, near Saundatti in Belagavi district, through four crest gates, on Monday. The water level in dam has reached 2076.50 feet against its maximum level of 2077.50 feet. DH PHOTO

Meanwhile, Linganmakki reservoir is just three-and-a-half feet short of reaching its maximum level. The dam authorities are likely to release water downstream at 10 am on Tuesday.

Many parts of Hassan, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts continued to receive heavy showers on Monday. Landslides have been reported at Donigal and Kappalli on Mangaluru-Bengaluru highway in Sakleshpur taluk. Heavy discharges from KRS have submerged Paschima Vaahini, G B Gate, bathing ghat and Gosaighat in Srirangapatna of Mandya district. The water level in Cauvery river has reached Wellesley Bridge while the Gauthama Kshetra has been rendered island. Gajanana Swami and four others are stranded in the ashrama.

Heavy overnight rain has left a trail of destruction in Kalyana Karnataka districts. Aurad and Kamalnagar taluks in Bidar district recorded over 300 mm of rain on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. Crops on hundreds of acres have been submerged following a lake breach in Bonthi village. Manjra river is flowing above the danger mark in Bidar district. Gruel centres have been set up at Bhandara Kumta and Bavalgaon villages. A holiday has been declared for all schools and colleges in Aurad taluk on Tuesday.

Girl dies of rabies after battling for life for four months

DAVANAGERE, DHNS: A four-year old girl, who was bitten by a stray dog and had been battling for life in the hospital for four months breathed her last at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday night.

The deceased has been identified as Khadira Banu (4) of Shastri lay-out in the city. The girl died after developing rabies due to a dog bite.

A stray dog had attacked the girl when she was playing in front of her house. It had bitten and injured several parts of her body, including her face. The seriously injured girl was admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru, family sources said.

Dolphin calf rescued, released into sea again

KARWAR, DHNS: A dolphin calf that had been washed ashore at the Devbag beach in the taluk due to rough waves was rescued and returned to the sea by staff from the Jungle Lodges and Resorts on Monday.

The Arabian Sea has been turbulent due to a cyclone. An Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin calf, caught in the powerful waves, was stranded on the beach near the resort and was struggling to get back into the water. Noticing this, tourists staying at the resort alerted the staff.

Staff members Nilesh, Sunil, and Santhosh successfully returned the dolphin calf to the sea.

Pocso cases in state rise 26% in 2 yrs

Pocso cases, from Page 1

"We have formed teams, including counsellors at the district level, who work with victims and their parents, providing them legal support and counselling to help them fight for justice," he added.

A senior police officer told *DH* that in a few cases, the accused would have been a family member and owing to pressure from the family, parents tend to back out. "We do try to persuade them but many a time, they change statements and the case ends in acquittal due to lack of evidence," a senior police officer said.

In a written reply to the Karnataka Legislative Council, Home Minister G Parameshwara said that a number of measures had been taken to prevent such cases and create awareness among the children and society.

Teaching children about "good touch" and "bad touch"; encouraging installation of CCTV cameras at playgrounds, child play homes and parks; and creating awareness regarding the Pocso Act, 2012, among children, parents, and teachers are among the measures initiated.

Koppal murder: Pocso case filed against slain youth, family

KOPPAL, DHNS: The murder case of Gavisiddappa Nayak, a resident of Kurubar Oni in Koppal, took a new turn with the mother of a minor girl, who was allegedly in a relationship with Gavisiddappa, filing a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) case against the slain youth's family.

The mother of the girl from the minority community has claimed that Gavisiddappa used to sexually harass her 16-year-old daughter since 2024, and Gavisiddappa's family members not only encouraged it but also threatened to kill the girl's mother if they made an issue out of it.

The mother filed a complaint against Gavisiddappa's father, mother and sister at the women's police station in Koppal on Saturday.

Gavisiddappa was murdered by a few Muslim youths on August 3. Police have so far arrested four persons, Sadiq Kolkar, Gesudaraj Patel, Mohammed Nizamuddin, and Mehboob Sikkalgar, in this regard.

According to the FIR, Gavisiddappa befriended the girl in 2024 when she started attending a computer class. The girl's mother claimed that the boy forced her to love him and sexually exploited her several times. "When I came to know about the alleged relationship, I confronted the boy and his parents. Instead of addressing the issue and leaving my daughter alone, they threatened to kill us," she stated in the FIR. The family of Gavisiddappa claimed he was murdered because the girl loved him.

Nayak's sister files caste abuse plaint against girl's family

In yet another twist to the Koppal murder case, the sister of slain Gavisiddappa Nayak has filed a case of caste abuse against the family members of the girl.

In a case filed with Town Police on Monday late night, Gavisiddappa's sister claimed that the girl's mother and her family has filed a false sexual harassment case (Pocso case) against her family to force her family to withdraw the case against the girl.

In the complaint, Gavisiddappa's sister charged that it was the girl who forced her brother to love her.

"On August 13, my mother went to Bengaluru to appeal to the Governor to ensure a fair trial in the case. The same day, the girl's mother, her sister and 10 to 15 others came to our house and began abusing us. They also used caste slurs against us. The girl's family was forcing us to withdraw the case. As we did not heed, in vengeance, the girl's mother filed a Pocso case against my father, mother and myself," she said.

Fox goes on biting spree in Raichur; four injured

RAICHUR, DHNS: A fox that entered the Shriramanagar area on the outskirts of the city attacked and injured four people, including a young girl, on Monday.

The fox, which came into the city from a forest area in search of food, bit and injured a girl, a woman, and two elderly men at Shriramanagar. The injured, Pooja, Akkanagamma, Ranganna, and Manjunath, are receiving treatment at the RIMS hospital.

After the residents of Shriramanagar informed the forest department, a team, led by RFO Rajesh Nayak, arrived at the scene. With the help of the locals, they set a trap and captured the fox.

Nayak said, "The citizens have expressed suspicion that the fox might be rabid. So we will keep it under the supervision of veterinarians for two days and release it in a safe place only after it has been treated."

The fox captured by the forest department staffers in Raichur on Monday.

Differences must not become disputes: EAM to China's Wang

Jaishankar, From Page 1

"In that endeavour, we must be guided by the three mutuals—mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest," the external affairs minister told Wang, adding "differences must neither become disputes, nor competition, nor conflict".

Jaishankar, while informing Parliament on December 3, 2024, about the latest India-China deal, had stated that disengagement or withdrawal of additional troops from along the LAC would be the next priority for both sides.

The two sides, however, could not make much progress on the disengagement, despite the resumption of the negotiations between Special Representatives to resolve the protracted boundary dispute in December 2024. "The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is another major priority. I look forward to our exchange of views," Jaishankar told Wang.

Beijing's support to Islamabad during the escalation of India-Pakistan tension in April-May this year riled New Delhi.

Jaishankar and Wang also discussed economic and trade issues, pilgrimages, people-to-people contacts, river data sharing, border trade, connectivity and bilateral exchanges.

Hebbal flyover...

Hebbal loop, from Page 1

"This method had, at times, led to congestion. Now, with commuters from the Nagawara side passing by smoothly, buses on the main carriageway can move freely, which has reduced congestion," the JCP (Traffic) said.

A 700 metre ramp, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 80 cr, now connects to the previously constructed loop and provides a direct connection between Nagawara, KR Puram and Mekhri Circle.

At least 5 lakh vehicles pass through the Hebbal flyover every day. This includes about 50,000 vehicles every hour during evening peak hour. On an average, regular commuters spend an average of 50 minutes at the busy junction. But now, the waiting time could be reduced by at least 10 to 15 minutes.

However, when *DH* visited the spot on Monday noon, the main carriageway of the flyover, with traffic streaming in from Mekhri Circle towards the Kempegowda International Airport, remained jam-packed.

Post Sunday presser, I.N.D.I.A mulls impeaching CEC

EC, from Page 1

The leaders were of the view that the fight against the Election Commission needs to be taken forward, as questions pertaining to the poll process have not been answered.

Sources said the leaders have "in principle" agreed to the proposal of impeaching the CEC and modalities of submitting the notice will be worked out soon.

"There is a general sentiment among the I.N.D.I.A parties that an impeachment motion should be given against the CEC. The way in which he held a press conference on Sunday was not like CEC but a BJP politician. He never answered the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition and other parties," Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal told reporters.

Senior RJD MP Manoj K Jha said they have all Constitutional and legal avenues before them.

Asked about the move, Congress Rajya Sabha Whip Syed Naseer Hussain said, "We were expecting yesterday that the EC would answer and address all concerns and questions being raised by the public and would clear doubts and anomalies being pointed out by people. The CEC is talking in the same manner as a BJP spokesperson. We need a completely impartial CEC and EC in the country."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
PWD Quarters No: 110-D, Opp: HKES Womens Polytechnic College,Iwan-E-Shahi Colony Kalaburagi-585102 Phone/Fax No-08472 – 241982. E –mail: ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No:HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-2/tenders/2025-26/590 Date:-16.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division Kalaburagi invites tenders from eligible tenderers in two cover system through online in KPP portal for the following works.

Sl. No	Description of work	Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. In lakhs)	Earnest Money deposit (In Rs)	Category	Period of completion including Monsoon
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Baanapura in Ballari taluk of Ballari district (WI No:1234)	54.86	55000.00	SC	6 months
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Genikihal in Kurugodu Taluk of Ballari District (WI No:1235)	54.84	55000.00	SC	6 months
3	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Haraginadoni in Ballari Taluk of Ballari District (WI No:1236)	54.84	55000.00	SC	6 months
4	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Kurekuppa in Sandur Taluk of Ballari District (WI No:1237)	54.84	55000.00	SC	6 months
5	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Nagarakatte in Kottur Taluk in Vijayanagara District (WI No:1238)	54.86	55000.00	SC	6 months
6	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Sunkadakallu in Kottur Taluk of Vijayanagara District (WI No:1239)	54.86	55000.00	Cat-II(A)	6 months
7	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Kududral in Siruguppa Taluk of Ballari District (WI No:1241)	54.84	55000.00	Cat-II(A)	6 months

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date & time for receipt of Tender Online in the Kppp-portal. : **03.09.2025 up to 16:00 hours,** 2) Last date & time for opening of technical bids : **04.09.2025 at 4.30 hours**
Note: 1) Please note henceforth any changes in the schedule will not be published through newspapers & further changes will be updated only in kppp portal. 2) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids/ individual bid etc., without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/401/KSMC&A/2025-26 **H & FWD Engineering Division, Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/SBM /Tender// 2025-26/299 Dt: 14.08.2025

Tender Notification
Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited for the following work Under Swacha Bharath Kosh Schemes in Two cover system through kppp-procurement. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Hiriyur Taluk 01 Works & Hosadurga Taluk 01 Work Total Rs. 575.40 Lakhs Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 29.08.2025, Technical Bid Opening 30.08.2025 and Financial Bid Opening 02.09.2025 For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 289/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga**

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
9th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001. **Telephone:** 080-22866302 / 22867172
Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665 **Email:** sedmatech@gmail.com
Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

No: 1802916 DMA/TECH/MGNV/31/2025 Dated: 18.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tenders are invited in KPP Portal for Infrastructure Development works under Mahatma Gandhi Nagara Vikasa Yojane (Phase-2) Scheme as per UIDF guidelines in Belagavi Mangalore, Hubballi-Dharwada, Kalaburagi and Tumkuru City corporation limits. The details are as follows.

Sl. No	Work Indent No.	Project cost (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38452- ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4700.00
2.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38534- ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4975.00
3.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42312- ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4690.00
4.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42585- ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4440.00
5.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT46382- ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	2616.00
6.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42394- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	887.00
7.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT43742- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4200.00
8.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT45366- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4023.00
9.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46668 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1390.00
10.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46667 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1340.00
11.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46771 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1585.00

The interested and qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date indicated in the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained through KPP portal.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/2366/Zen/2025-26 **Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operation) Zone, Kalaburagi invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following bid enquiry No.

No.: CEE/TR(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/5740 Date: 18.08.2025

(1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT2500, Dtd. 12.08.2025, "Tender for the work of replacement of complete oil of 100MVA, 220/110KV Power Transformer No. 1, make NGEF, SL No. 68000000103 incluing replacing gaskets, O rings and insulating materials vacuum drying of active parts at **220KV R/s. KPTCL Sedam** coming under Operation Division, KPTCL, Yadagiri on PTK basis (Transformer Oil will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT2496, Dtd. 12.08.2025, "Tender is invited from KPTCL empanelled agencies for conducting detailed survey for the work of Re-Construction of 220KV **Ferozabad-Sedam line** i.e. New 220KV link line from 400KV Ferozabad to Loc No: 722 of about 12km and reconstruction of 220KV line from Loc: 722 to 220KV Sedam receiving station SC line on S/C Towers by 220KV DC line on DC towers for a length of about 51Kms along with 01 No. of 220KV Terminal Bays at both end in Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi District coming under jurisdiction of Operation Division, KPTCL, Yadagiri-based on the Modern Survey Techniques".

No.: CEE/TR(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/5720 Date: 18.08.2025

(3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Navali Replacement Call-2, "Replacement of 2x10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformers and providing additional switchgear at 110/11KV Navali Sub-Station in Kanakagiri Taluk, KoppalA District on Partial Turnkey basis, including supply of all Materials/Equipments (Excluding supply of 20MVA power transformers and 11KV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/ Equipments, Testing and Commissioning". **(Amt. put to tender Rs. 76,45,209.84).**

No.: CEE/TR(OP)Z/KLB/SEE/AEE-3/2025-26/5753 Date: 18.08.2025

(4) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SS/2025-26/Hanumasagar replacement, Dtd. 12.08.2025, "Replacement of 2x10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11KV transformer & providing additional switchgear at **110KV Hanumasagar S/s** in Kushtagi Tq., Koppala Dist".

No.: CEE/TR(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/5768 Date: 18.08.2025

(5) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/66KV Gudekote 12.5 MVA Enhancement, Dtd. 13.08.2025, "Enhancement of 6.3 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Sub-station, Gudekote in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara District". **(Amt. put to tender Rs. 45,49,816.65).**

For more information log on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.08.2025.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

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NOMINEE WATCH: Former Isro scientist Annadurai in contention; Kharge hosts crucial meeting

I.N.D.I.A bloc set to name VP candidate today

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc is all set to announce its candidate for the vice-presidential election on Tuesday afternoon, with top leaders holding consultations on a clutch of names, including former Isro scientist Mylswamy Annadurai, who helmed Chandrayaan-1, for the electoral battle the Opposition wants to pitch as one aimed at saving the 'Idea of India'.

A meeting of leaders of "all Opposition parties in Parliament" has been convened at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence at 12.30 pm, following which an announcement is expected.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh's post announcing the meeting referred to "Opposition parties" rather than the I.N.D.I.A bloc, likely leaving the door open for parties like the AAP to attend.

On Monday evening, Kharge chaired a meeting of select I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders, during which they reaffirmed their decision to contest the V-P election. Despite having unfavourable numbers, they felt that leaving the polls uncontested would be politically unwise.

Sources said a few names were discussed, and it was decided that Kharge will speak to leaders who were not present at the meeting and evolve a consensus. When asked whether the former scientist's name was discussed, a senior Opposition leader told *DH* that Annadurai's name was among those discussed.

However, sources said TMC has reservations over choosing a Tamil as the Opposition candidate because it would be seen as "reactive". The name of Mahatma Gandhi's great grandson Tushar Gandhi has also been suggested to the Opposition leadership, as a section does not want the polls to be a "regional fight" but a "national one".

Sources said senior DMK MP Kanimozhi spoke with I.N.D.I.A leaders like Akhilesh Yadav before the meeting and sought their support for picking her party's choice as the I.N.D.I.A candidate.

Incidentally, there were reports about DMK Rajya Sabha floor leader Tiruchi Siva being suggested by the DMK, even as there has been an overwhelming view within the bloc that the candidate should be "non-political" who can take the Opposition's politics forward.

Sources said the bloc is weighing candidates from either poll-bound Bihar or Tamil Nadu, from where the NDA has fielded CP Radhakrishnan. Opposition leaders insist on a contest, as the NDA has chosen an "RSS man".

However, the Samajwadi Party and RJD had been averse to push for a contest for the post, as they believe that "a losing battle" could negatively influence the Bihar polls.They are also apprehensive of some allies voting for NDA as well as cross-voting. However, sources said they would abide by the collective decision though they do not want "any mistake be done" before Bihar polls.

TKS ELANGOVAN
Senior DMK leader

"The BJP did not name Radhakrishnan for the sake of the Tamil Nadu people, but it was considering their own gains in the election since Assembly polls are round the corner, due by March-April 2026. They want to deceive the TN people by going to people with the claim that we have made a Tamilian the vice president.

NDA's Vice-Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan with Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, K Rammohan Naidu, Pralhad Joshi, Bhupender Yadav, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

NDA pick Radhakrishnan meets Modi

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, DHNS: A day after Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan was nominated as the National Democratic Alliance's vice-presidential candidate, he arrived in the national capital on Monday and met leaders of the BJP-led alliance, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He thanked Modi for his nomination.

After the former Tamil Nadu BJP president and ex-Lok Sabha MP met him, Modi said on X, "Met Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji. Conveyed my best wishes on his being NDA's vice-presidential nominee."

"His long years of public service and experience across domains will greatly enrich our nation. May he continue to serve the nation with the same dedication and resolve he has always demonstrated," the PM said.

Separately, a host of Union ministers, including BJP's Bhupender Yadav, Pralhad Joshi and Kiren Rijiju and TDP's K Ram Mohan Naidu, received Radhakrishnan in New Delhi, ahead of a host of meetings the NDA has planned in connection with his campaign.

Radhakrishnan will, on Tuesday, be formally introduced as the vice-presidential candidate at a meeting of NDA MPs in New Delhi. PM Modi is likely to do the honours, and this decision was conveyed to the floor leaders of NDA constituents by minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday.

Sources said Rijiju formally introduced Radhakrishnan to all floor leaders and sought their support for the September 9 election.

Later in the evening, the vice-presidential candidate attended a meeting of NDA leaders. He may file his nomination on August 20, sources said.

The NDA's numerical superiority has made Radhakrishnan's victory a certainty. But the ruling alliance's managers are in overdrive to consolidate maximum support in his favour to send out a political statement, amid indications from the I.N.D.I.A bloc that it will force a contest by naming its own candidate.

The NDA received a boost after former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSR Congress Party, one of the few parties not aligned to either of the two rival blocs, extended its support to Radhakrishnan's candidature.

The regional party has 11 MPs in Parliament, whose members make up the electoral college for the VP election. Union Minister Rajnath Singh, who is overseeing the campaign and has reached out to different parties, had spoken to Reddy, sources said.

The BJP is also eying support from two other unaligned regional parties, Odisha's BJD and Telangana's BRS, and some Independents.

YSRCP to support NDA candidate

HYDERABAD/CHENNAI, DHNS: NDA's vice presidential candidate, C P Radhakrishnan, is set to receive unanimous support from Andhra Pradesh as NDA allies TDP and Jana Sena, along with YSRCP, will back him.

Andhra Pradesh has 25 Lok Sabha and 11 Rajya Sabha members, with TDP holding 19 LS seats, Jana Sena two, and YSRCP four. In the RS, YSRCP has seven members while TDP holds the remaining seats.

In an unexpected boost for the NDA, the YSRCP has decided to support the ruling alliance's candidate.

YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy received a phone call from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday, seeking his party's support.

Sources said Jagan informed Singh that he would consult party leaders before responding. Later, parliamentary party leader YV Subba Reddy conveyed the party's decision to support the NDA candidate.

Rajnath's outreach to Stalin fails

Rajnath also reached out to DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin, seeking his support to propose the Maharashtra Governor as the consensus candidate. However, Stalin gave no commitment or response.

Sources told *DH* that the High Command in New Delhi also contacted "mutual friends" of the DMK and BJP to approach Stalin and seek his support for CPR. "None of these efforts proved successful, and that is when the NDA went ahead and announced CPR as its candidate," the source added.

Interestingly, CPR met Stalin on August 11, ostensibly to enquire about his health.

According to sources, the DMK conveyed to I.N.D.I.A bloc that voting for CPR was not an option for the party due to his deep association with the RSS and BJP, but that the party also did not want to be seen as opposing a fellow Tamil.

The DMK also told allies that the party has larger stakes in the V-P elections since the NDA candidate hails from Tamil Nadu, and that its suggestions should be given due weight.

Radhakrishnan, if elected, will be 2nd Maha guv to occupy VP chair

CP Radhakrishnan, who is expected to assume the role of vice president next month, will become the second governor of Maharashtra to hold India's second-highest constitutional office, reports DHNS from Mumbai.

The BJP-led NDA has nominated 68-year-old Radhakrishnan for the election scheduled on September 9.

Radhakrishnan took charge as the governor of Maharashtra on July 31, 2024.

The other Maharashtra governor to become vice president was the late Shankar Dayal Sharma, who later ascended to the presidency. He succeeded R Venkataraman as vice president in 1987. Sharma served as vice president until 1992 and as president from 1992 to 1997. He passed away on December 6, 1999.

Parliament passes Indian Ports Bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed The Indian Ports Bill, 2025, which aims to modernise port laws, boost ease of doing business, and strengthen India's maritime ambitions.

The Indian Ports Bill, 2025, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 12, was introduced in the Upper House on Monday amid noisy protests by the Opposition. Opposition MPs later staged a walkout demanding a discussion on the electoral rolls revision in Bihar.

Union Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the proposed legislation would impart discipline for the operation of ports, sustainable practices, and ensure that the central and state governments can come together to operate in the space.

The Bill replaces the outdated provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, with contemporary regulations.

Referring to the Opposition, who had staged a walkout, Sonowal said Congress and their alliance at least should "develop a sense of respect to the nation because they are also citizens of the country."

The Bill aims to establish and empower State Maritime Boards for effective management of ports other than major ports, besides the establishment of the Maritime State Development Council for fostering structured growth and development of the port sector, he said.

Additionally, the Bill addresses the management of pollution, disasters, emergencies, security, safety, navigation, and data at ports; it guarantees adherence to India's commitments under international agreements to which it is a party; it takes action to conserve ports.

BJP dares Oppn to dissolve their state assemblies if EC is unfair

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BJP on Monday dared I.N.D.I.A bloc parties to dissolve state assemblies where they are in power if they doubt the Election Commission's fairness and alleged that their sole aim behind protesting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar is to shield infiltrators.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters that it has become Rahul Gandhi's habit to cry "chor chor", claiming that it is ironic that leaders like him or RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, who is on bail in a corruption case, like the Congress leader, are charging constitutional bodies with theft.

His attack on opposition parties came after eight of them hit out at Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that instead of responding to questions raised by them, he chose to attack them at his presser on Sunday.

Patra asserted that the CEC made a point-by-point "technical rebuttal" to the charges levelled by opposition leaders, but they are deliberately crying foul.

"They want a chaotic situation to develop in India and benefit politically. This is their attempt," he said.

Oppn accuses EC of failing in constitutional duty

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Monday claimed that the Election Commission has "completely failed" to discharge its constitutional duty of ensuring a free and fair electoral system in the country, alleging that those leading the poll body "intimidate" those who challenge the ruling BJP and seek a "meaningful inquiry into voter fraud".

Leaders alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was acting like a BJP spokesperson and failed to answer questions during a press conference he held on Sunday, which was related to the SIR and allegations of voter theft during polls.

In a joint statement, 20 I.N.D.I.A parties said the CEC offered no clarification or comment on the allegations made by the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on the "voter fraud unearthed in Mahadevapura", except to reiterate his "legally infirm" demand for the data to be placed on an affidavit.

"It has now become clear that the EC is not being led by officers who can ensure a level playing field. To the contrary, it is now clear that those who lead the ECI divert and thwart any attempt at a meaningful inquiry into voter fraud and instead opt to intimidate those who challenge the ruling party. This is a serious indictment," the joint statement said.

'No explanation given'

It also said the CEC had offered no explanation on why the Bihar SIR was being conducted in such a "hasty, ill-prepared and ad-hoc manner".

Addressing a joint press conference, RJD MP Manoj K Jha remarked, "Yesterday we were looking for our CEC; we found a new BJP spokesperson." Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha floor leader Arvind Sawant also accused the CEC of "behaving like a BJP spokesperson".

As the CEC criticised the Opposition, TMC MP Mahua Moitra said, "Your job is not to attack the Opposition. Leave that to your political masters."

Congress Lok Sabha Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi said the EC was "silent" on allegations relating to the Maharashtra elections and Mahadevapura, as well as on why a rule was made to delete CCTV footage of the polling process after 45 days and why a machine-readable voters' list was not being made available.

Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav said that the EC had asked Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition to submit an affidavit with his complaint, but his party had already submitted affidavits in 2022 regarding complaints of around 18,000 voters being removed from the list.

Rahul warns CEC, ECs of stern action when I.N.D.I.A bloc forms govt

GAYA JI (BIHAR), PTI: Asserting that "vote chori" is an attack on 'Bharat Mata', Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday warned the chief election commissioner and the two election commissioners of stern action when the I.N.D.I.A bloc forms a government.

Intensifying his attack on the Election Commission, Gandhi also said the whole country would ask the poll body for an affidavit and if given time, his party would bring out the "vote chori" in every assembly and Lok Sabha constituency.

The fresh attack on the EC by the Congress leader came a day after CEC Gyanesh Kumar served a seven-day ultimatum on him to submit a signed affidavit to back his vote theft claims, else his allegations will be considered baseless.

Gandhi said that just like Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about special package, the poll body also brought in a "new special package" for Bihar, which is named SIR (Special Intensive Revision), a "new form of vote theft".

His remarks came on the second day of the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla meets PM Modi after ISS trip

Rs 548 crore was spent on Axiom-4 mission, says minister

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has spent Rs 548 crore on the Axiom-4 mission that facilitated Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's entry to the International Space Station (ISS) as the first Indian astronaut, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said in the Lok Sabha on Monday, providing the first official account of the expenses incurred on the mission.

Group Captain Shukla, Axiom-4 mission pilot, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and shared his experience of staying 18 days in space. He and his backup, Group Captain Prasanth Nair, returned to India on Sunday.

Oppn protests

But the discussions on India's achievements in the space sector in the Lower House were marred by raucous protest by the Opposition, prompting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to point out that "topics like space, which are extremely important for India's scientific and strategic vision in the 21st century, should at least be kept above partisan politics."

"Today, during a special discussion in the Lok Sabha on the journey of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to the ISS and his subsequent return, the manner in which the Opposition created a ruckus in the House and did not allow it to function is extremely unfortunate," Rajnath said.

"They could have participated in the discussion and provided constructive review, criticism, and suggestions for India's space programme," the defence minister said.

The disclosure by Science Minister Jitendra Singh is the first official word on the expenses for the mission.

Cost-effective missions

"We have spent Rs 548 crore ($65 million), which is very small compared to other missions in the world. We have specialised in the technique of cost-effective missions. Chandrayaan-3 was achieved at Rs 600 crore, and Gaganyaan budget is Rs 10,000 crore," the minister said.

The first Indian to go to space in our own spacecraft would be a reality by 2027; the Bharatiya Antriksh Station would be up by 2035, and an Indian would be on the moon by 2040, the minister added.

The minister said after opening up the space sector for private players in 2020, India's space economy already reached $8 billion and would touch $45 billion in the next decade.

The discussion remained inconclusive as the House was adjourned due to vociferous protests by the Opposition.

Group Captain Shukla and three other Indian astronauts are expected to be present at the second National Space Day celebrations in Delhi on Aug 23.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla at his residence in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"Had a great interaction with Shubhanshu Shukla. We discussed a wide range of subjects including his experiences in space, progress in science & technology as well as India's ambitious Gaganyaan mission. India is proud of his feat.

NEVER TOO LATE

Centenarians log on as Kerala's digital literacy wagon rolls on

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As Kerala gears up to be formally declared a digitally literate state, 105-year-old Abdullah Moulavi and 103-year-old Karunakara Panicker are telling the world that age is not a barrier to attaining digital literacy.

The centenarians are among the 21.8 lakh people who have been imparted digital literacy as part of the Kerala government's 'DigiKerala' programme.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will declare Kerala a totally digitally literate state on Thursday, as 99.8% of people in the 14–65 age group in the state are found to be digitally literate.

Kerala Minister MB Rajesh with 105-year-old Abdullah Moulavi, who acquired digital literacy.

Even though the programme launched in 2022 by the State Local Self-Government Department targeted only people up to the age of 65, it witnessed participation from many beyond the age limit.

Sarasamma, 73, an MGNREGS worker from Pullampara on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram, not only acquired digital literacy but also started a YouTube channel to share her songs and knowledge.

Many like Moulavi and Panicker were introduced to smartphones during the Covid-19 lockdown. It sparked their interest in joining the state government's DigiKerala drive, which was implemented with the help of volunteers, including students and members of the Kudumbashree women empowerment programme.

Panicker, who hails from Thiruvananthapuram, was fortunate to have his 74-year-old son Rajan as a learning companion.

Local Self-Government Minister MB Rajesh visited Moulavi on Monday and gifted him a smartphone for being the oldest participant in the campaign. Moulavi also demonstrated his digital skills before the minister — chatting, browsing and making video calls.

Learning modules under the DigiKerala initiative ranged from smartphone basics to making digital payments and accessing government services.

In 1991, Kerala was declared a fully literate state after over 99% of its population achieved literacy through a campaign.

SC junks plea on validity of Maha Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition that challenged the validity of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections on the ground that 76 lakh votes were cast after 6 pm till the end of polling.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh declined to entertain the petition, filed by one Chetan Chandrakant Ahire, against a Bombay High Court judgment on June 25, when it dismissed the petition.

Ahire, a voter from the Vikhroli constituency, claimed 76 lakh bogus voters exercised their franchise after the closing of polls at 6 pm on the voting day in the Assembly elections held on November 20, 2024.

He challenged the entire election, the results of which were declared on November 24.

Dismissing the plea, the HC had noted that farcical claims were made on the purity of the process of the elections, and more particularly in the context of electronic voting machines. It also found the approach of the petitioner extremely casual.

"We are also quite astonished as to how a writ petition can be filed on the basis of a single newspaper article purporting to canvass a theory of discrepancies in the 'cast vote' and 'poll votes'," the HC had said.

There was no other material whatsoever, much less of any authenticity, to the effect that there was any malpractice, fraud, or complaint of any nature in the voting at the closing hours of the poll, it pointed out.

"We are of the clear opinion that merely on political opinions or on unsubstantiated newspaper reports, a petition under Article 226 cannot at all be maintained," the HC's division bench had said.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Combative CEC offers few answers

In his media conference on Sunday, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar failed to respond convincingly to allegations made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi about voter-list anomalies in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura constituency, and the general conduct of the Commission. Questions have also been raised by others on the processes followed by the Commission. The Commission, it was expected, would respond to these concerns with credible explanations. Instead, Kumar made broad denials, took a combative position, and made unnecessary comments. The Commission asked Gandhi to produce the proof of his charges on affidavit or render an apology. What power does the CEC have to set deadlines, lay down conditions, and seek an apology from a political leader, a citizen who has raised questions about the Commission's conduct? Rule 20(3)(b), which was invoked for this demand, does not apply to Gandhi's case. It needs to be noted that the Commission did not demand an affidavit from BJP leader Anurag Thakur, who claimed that similar irregularities occurred in constituencies won by the Congress. The language and the tone used by the CEC did not align with the conduct of a constitutional functionary. Kumar sounded more political than constitutional, preconceived rather than receptive, and dismissive rather than understanding.

Tough talk and ultimatums are no substitute for credible counters to charges of electoral mismanagement

The CECmaintained that the claims of large-scale voter-list manipulation, through 'House No. 0' entries or duplicate names, were exaggerated and that parties had the opportunity to flag genuine errors before the rolls were finalised. But the inflated voters' list that Gandhi presented is no exaggeration. The Commission asked for evidence, while the evidence exists in its own records. The explanation that people with 'House No. 0' entries are homeless is unconvincing, as is the claim that making electoral videos public would violate the right to privacy. There was no satisfactory response to the demand for machine-readable electoral rolls. Specific questions about the deletion and addition of names in the Bihar voters' lists during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision were also ignored.

The Commission objected to Gandhi's "vote *chori*" phrasing, terming it improper and misleading. It was when lapses were noted in the Commission's functioning, and it was seen as soft on the government and the ruling party and harsh on the Opposition, that it started attracting criticism. There can't be a compromise on transparency and accountability in the Commission's functioning. The CEC denied having discriminated between the ruling and Opposition parties, but its actions have left the Opposition and large sections of the public with that perception. It was for the CEC to set the record straight. Instead, the media interaction ended up adding credence to the charges.

Tribals caught in legal limbo

Karnataka's dismal record in implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA) for the rehabilitation of tribals displaced from forests reveals a systemic failure to uphold their rights and dignity. Of the 2.94 lakh applications submitted, a staggering 86% have been rejected, while another 24,894 remain in limbo. Forest Department officers admit that most claims are unlikely to be approved. The reasons are purely bureaucratic: the absence of elected representatives at the panchayat level to validate claims and unrealistic demands for century-old documents proving residence for three generations. Most of the 2.53 lakh claims were rejected twice, following the Supreme Court's directive for "re-verification". The state has so far approved only 14,981 individual claims and 1,345 community rights claims. Activists argue that this mass rejection denies livelihoods to the families, many displaced decades ago, under the FRA, without compensation or documentation of eviction.

The United Nations has long condemned such forced evictions, calling them a violation of fundamental rights under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN mandates that tribals cannot be evicted without their free, prior, and informed consent, as their land, culture, and survival are inextricably tied to the forests. Evictions not only destroy livelihoods but also erase entire ways of life. While the Centre's FRA guidelines emphasise legal recognition of rights, prevention of eviction, consent-based rehabilitation, and fair compensation, Karnataka's implementation tells a different story, marked by bureaucratic apathy and poor coordination.

Mass rejection of claims under the FRA derails lives and livelihoods. Policy and processes must change

The irony is that tribals are not forest encroachers; they are its natural guardians. Their traditional practices sustain biodiversity, preserve sacred groves, and prevent over-exploitation of resources. They serve as the first line of defence against poaching and ecological degradation. Yet, instead of integrating them into conservation efforts, the government sees them as adversaries. The solution requires reimagining governance: expecting illiterate tribals to produce archaic documents is unjust. In the absence of elected panchayat representatives, revenue officers should be empowered to certify claims. A committee headed by local MLAs should be formed to ensure seamless coordination between departments, cutting through red tape. Today, tribals are caught in a legal void, neither accepted as forest dwellers nor rehabilitated fairly. Karnataka must urgently align itself with the spirit of the FRA and the constitutional values of justice and human dignity. The government's rigidity should give way to empathy, ensuring that tribal rights are not just acknowledged but actively protected. This ambiguity must end without further delay.

SYSTEM REVAMP

GST 2.0: Reform through broader base, rational rates

New structure promises easier compliance, but the shift must also help reaffirm the fiscal autonomy of states

AJIT RANADE

The nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out eight years ago with much fanfare, in a special midnight session of Parliament. It was hailed as a landmark reform that unified the country as a common economic market with one system of indirect taxes, eliminating interstate frictions and leakages. The passage of the GST reform was achieved as a grand bargain with the Union government giving up its right to impose excise and service taxes, and all the states surrendering their right to impose state-level sales taxes, value-added tax, and other sundry taxes such as octroi. This grand bargain and persuasion of state governments to surrender their taxing autonomy was achieved by promising them reimbursements of tax shortfalls. This is the GST compensation clause in the original Act of 2017, which expired in 2022. Now, the states are afraid that they will face a steep fall in their tax share of GST.

Previously, states could adjust VAT, entry tax, and octroi to meet their unique fiscal needs. Now, their ability to independently mobilise resources is curtailed, and that is worrisome. After eight years, the GST is still a work in progress despite the great efforts of the GST council with state representatives. In this light, it is very welcome that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address, announced a landmark reform of GST as a major "Diwali gift" for the citizens. He promised next-generation GST reforms aimed at reducing the tax burden on the common people, especially the middle class and MSMEs. The government's proposal revolves around three pillars: structural reforms, rate rationalisation, and ease of living.

Let's be clear that GST, as a unified, nationwide, indirect tax, has certain drawbacks from both the design and implementation perspectives. The design flaw is that an indirect tax like GST is inherently regressive. That's because the tax paid does not depend on the income of the person, but on the value of the item being purchased. Hence, the poor feel the pinch of GST more than the rich. Direct taxes like income tax and wealth tax are fairer than indirect taxes. Fairness means the 'fraction' of your income paid as taxes goes up with income, not down.

To reduce this unfairness, the GST design has multiple slabs. A zero or 5% slab on items consumed by the poor. And a high slab for items consumed by the rich. But this is paternalistic. It implicitly dictates what poor people should consume. What if poor households have aspirations? The divide between essentials and non-essentials is not sharp, nor static, nor something the State should determine. With GDP growth, poor households move into the middle-income slab, and the middle-income households into the rich. So instead of catching their income, we try to get them through GST.

In practice worldwide, food and medicines are exempt. A rational, efficient system should have only one rate for all goods and services, as seen in the EU nations, Singapore, and Australia. There are some tweaks, but the broad principle is one median rate, one very low rate for essentials (food, medicine), and one very high rate for sin goods (tobacco, liquor) and super luxury goods.

A simplified slab structure

From an implementation perspective, the flaws are as follows. GST has retained a complicated system of multiple tax slabs (0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28%, a penal sin tax rate, and various cesses). This complexity leads to frequent disputes over the classification of goods and services, confusion among taxpayers, and litigation. The current GST structure is difficult to administer and regressive in effect. There are also cases of inverted duty structures under GST, where inputs are taxed at higher rates than finished goods. This leads to accumulated credits, cash flow problems for businesses, and discourages domestic manufacturing.

Large parts of GDP, such as agriculture, petroleum products, electricity, alcohol, and real estate, remain outside its ambit. Selective exemptions fragment the tax base, reduce revenue, and undermine the spirit of GST reform. The burden on small businesses and MSMEs is severe since they have to pay GST upfront, but their customers delay payments. There are also refund delays and technical glitches, which hurt business liquidity and confidence. Additionally, frequent changes in rates and rules, along with a complex filing system, pose additional burdens and lead to further tax litigation.

Under the proposed reforms announced by the PM, the most significant change is the move from the current multi-slab GST system to a simplified two-slab structure: a "standard" and a "merit" rate, with special rates for select items. This will make compliance easier for businesses, reduce litigation and classification disputes, and bring much-needed stability and predictability to GST rates. Taxes on daily-use items and aspirational goods are expected to drop, boosting consumption and benefiting MSMEs. Lowering these rates will help make Indian exports more competitive globally and aid job creation. The government also plans to introduce seamless, technology-driven registration, pre-filled GST returns, and faster refunds. The median rate can be fixed at 15% and not 18%, which is too burdensome – it should come down from 15% to even 12%, as suggested by the original Kelkar task force on tax reforms.

Finally, on federalism, the Constitution gives states greater expenditure responsibilities (like health and education) but fewer independent revenue streams. GST has accentuated this imbalance, forcing states to rely heavily on central transfers. States need some taxing power for funding local development and public welfare. There is a perception that GST has undermined India's federal spirit and eroded the fiscal autonomy of states. We need to explore how to restore greater fiscal space and autonomy to states, enabling them to design policies suited to their specific economic, social, and regional needs. We also need to tilt the balance away from indirect taxes towards direct taxes, to reduce inequity.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Not all gifts are about price tags

How a Rs-150 purse turned me into a sleuth in Udaipur

BARKHA KUMARI

My mother is frugal, content with just *roti, kapda*, and *makaan*. Gift her anything non-essential or in excess, and a lecture on 'Don't waste money' is guaranteed. But this time, I had erred doubly: not only had I bought her yet another purse, but I had also forgotten it at the very shop I bought it from.

I was in Udaipur for work, and it was 9.15 pm. The Jagdish Temple Street bazaar, where I had picked up the gorgeous embroidered clutch, would soon shut. Even trying the next morning didn't make sense. The purse cost Rs 150. The auto fare to retrieve it? Double that.

Should I ask the shopkeeper for a refund via UPI? But wait — what was the shop called? I didn't have a photo of the shop, let alone the number. My UPI receipt read: Bharat Handicraft. But Google Maps drew a blank.

My only bet was the mithai shop—my last stop in the bazaar. The shopkeeper and I had chatted heartily, him insisting I pack *gulabi pasa* and me about Bengaluru. "Bhaiya, remember me?" I asked, then let my story tumble out, slipping in the "gift for my mother" bit.

"There's no Bharat Handicraft here," he replied but promised to investigate in the morning.

That night in my hotel room, I went full detective. On my phone, I zoomed through Google Earth, combing bylanes despite the nausea its immersive feature gives me. There it was — the temple, the paan shop in front of it, and seemingly my shop to its left. Its signboard was hidden behind tote bags. I passed on my intel to *mithai bhaiya* — screenshots from Google Earth and UPI transactions and photos of the purses I had shortlisted at the shop.

Morning came, and I was out chasing breakfast and boat rides. Soon, it was time to leave. Only once I got into the cab to the airport did it hit me: I hadn't followed up. And now, *mithai bhaiya* wasn't responding. Seeing my face droop, the driver enquired. Touched that it was a gift for my mother, he offered to track down the shop and courier the purse.

Less than two hours to my flight, *mithai bhaiya* called: "I will check now." Five minutes on, he rang up again: "Here's your shopkeeper. I am handing him the phone."

I apologised to the man, guilty that my request would start his day with a loss! He sounded wary because of UPI scams, but after a quick check, he saw I was genuine. Moments later, my phone lit up with a refund of Rs 150.

Two days later, I was in Jamshedpur, visiting my mother. I took her mobile phone, slid it inside a hand-block printed mobile sling bag, and gave it to her. I blurted, "Got it for free on the work trip." She smiled and slung it across her body.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EC should take note of irregularities, correct them

The CEC, Gyanesh Kumar, has betrayed the Election Commission's blatant partisanship by demanding an affidavit or apology from Rahul Gandhi within a seven-day deadline for his "vote *chori*" remarks. The allegations pertain to a single assembly segment in Bengaluru, where allegedly over one lakh fake voters were created during the last Lok Sabha election. In contrast, the Commission has treated more serious allegations against BJP leader Anurag Thakur with kid gloves. Instead of taking note of alleged irregularities and acting judiciously to ensure a flawless electoral roll, the EC has chosen to browbeat and intimidate the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Such an attitude will only further erode the credibility of the poll body in the eyes of voters. Kumar was evasive on several key questions from the media, including the number of undocumented immigrants in Bihar and the handling of enumeration forms. EC's failure to live up to its Constitutional mandate to conduct free and fair elections as a neutral umpire is worrisome.
S K Choudhury, Bengaluru

Manipur needs healing

Apropos 'Dogwhistling mars PM's I-Day Speech' (Aug 18), while the Prime Minister covered a wide range of topics, including national security, economy, and justice, it was disheartening that he did not even mention Manipur, which has been suffering and facing destruction. How can we compete with other countries when we cannot provide a solution for this small state? The Modi government should look into this and bring an end to the suffering. The PM's talk about world peace, freedom, and justice appears hollow when Manipur continues to burn.
Anry Haokip, Bengaluru

PM's address

I refer to 'Dog whistling mars PM's I-Day speech' (Aug 18). The Prime Minister's address was marred by unverified demographic conspiracies. While the speech touched on strategic priorities like national security and economic initiatives, the inclusion of such conspiracies diluted the gravitas of the moment. Independence Day deserves unity, not selective urgency wrapped in political overtones. Nation-building thrives on inclusion, not insinuation. The message from the Red Fort should rise above party lines, not toe them.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

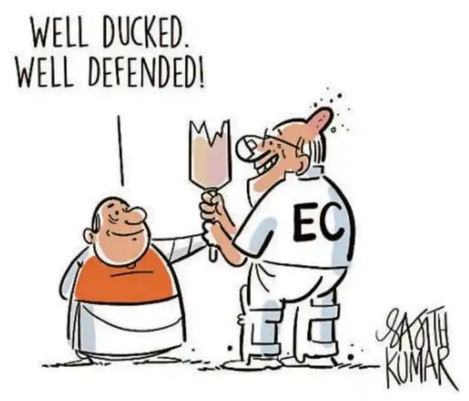
... Today, PM Modi has said that demography is destiny. We have to protect our demography, its profile and our border areas... BJP has a particular view about illegal infiltrators. That is why we conducted the NRC here in Assam because we wanted to find these illegal people and send them back to their countries...

Ram Madhav, RSS leader

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.

H L Mencken

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

In Alaska, optics trump substance

Trump plays peacemaker again; Putin flexes equal weightage; the war continues

ANAND KUMAR

The summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska was billed as a turning point that could influence the Russia-Ukraine war, reset US-Russia ties, and reshape global trade politics. Yet, the meeting, rich in symbolism and optics, produced little substance. No agreement emerged on Ukraine, and the world was left with ambiguity, competing narratives, and political theatre.

The opening was steeped in ceremony – smiles, handshakes, a ride in Trump's limousine, and military flyovers signaling warmth rarely afforded to a Russian leader on US soil. Both leaders described the talks as "direct" and "sincere." Putin suggested that an "understanding" had been reached and urged Europe and Kyiv not to block progress. Trump was more cautious, declaring there was "no deal until there's a deal," shifting responsibility to Ukraine and Europe. By doing so, he left Kyiv to either validate or reject his brand of diplomacy.

The joint press conference was brief and opaque. Neither leader offered details nor answered questions. Trump stressed "great progress," while Putin painted the discussions as a breakthrough. Yet, observers saw little more than political optics. Trump's campaign even capitalised on the summit with fundraising appeals portraying him as the indispensable peacemaker.

Beyond Ukraine, Trump leaned on his familiar theme of personal diplomacy. He claimed Chinese President Xi Jinping had privately assured him that Beijing would not invade Taiwan during his presidency – a statement that drew skepticism but little pushback.

For India, the Alaska summit carried particular significance. Trump has long criticised India's continued imports of Russian oil, portraying them as weakening Western sanctions. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent even warned that if no progress emerged from Alaska, Washington could escalate "secondary tariffs" on India, already facing a punitive 25% penalty on top of existing tariffs. The message was blunt: if Russia would not bend, India would be squeezed.

The irony was stark. India, importing nearly two million barrels per day from Russia, faced the threat of penalties, while China, the largest buyer of Russian crude, escaped similar treatment. Trump even suggested post-summit that tariffs on China were unnecessary "for now," highlighting a double standard not lost on New Delhi. Adding to the confusion, Trump publicly claimed that India had agreed to halt Russian oil imports, a statement completely at odds with reality. Whether misinformed, misrepresenting facts, or deliberately using India as a bargaining chip, Trump's rhetoric underscored the precariousness of India's position.

India in the mix

For Indian policymakers, the stakes are immense. Should secondary tariffs proceed, India would confront an effective 50% tariff burden on its exports to the US – a blow to agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing. If Trump holds back, India may preserve room for trade talks, perhaps even negotiations towards a bilateral agreement. Yet, the larger lesson is clear: Trump treats tariffs as instruments of diplomacy, using economic leverage to extract concessions or claim victories.

The summit gave Trump another chance to promote his peacemaker narrative in South Asia. He claimed, again, credit for mediating the ceasefire between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, and argued his intervention prevented a nuclear conflict.

Ultimately, the Alaska summit was more spectacle than substance. For Ukraine, the war continues with no ceasefire in sight. For Russia, the optics provided a propaganda boost, allowing Putin to present himself as an equal partner in dialogue. For Trump, the meeting reinforced his style of personalised diplomacy – grand gestures, bold claims, and self-promotion – even when tangible results are missing. For India, it highlighted the risks of being collateral damage in great-power bargaining, with its energy and trade interests vulnerable to Trump's unpredictable tariff threats.

The summit ended with Putin inviting Trump to Moscow, which Trump said he might accept. This indicates Trump values maintaining a personal channel with Putin regardless of outcomes. Yet, symbolism, warmth, and handshakes are no substitute for agreements on matters as consequential as war and peace.

In the final analysis, Alaska showcased Trump's approach: wielding trade as leverage, projecting himself as a global deal-maker, and privileging personal ties with fellow strongmen. But it also exposed contradictions, particularly towards India, where threats of punitive tariffs clash with the rhetoric of partnership. For New Delhi, the takeaway is sobering: while it may welcome a reprieve from US pressure, it cannot rely on Trump's consistency. Safeguarding its national interests – in energy, trade, and regional stability – requires strategic independence and resilience, not deference to the shifting winds of American politics.

(The writer is an associate fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)

The Char Dham warning: Climate resilience must begin with the locals

DEEPTI GANAPATHY

The recent devastating visuals from the Dharali and Harshil valleys call for an immediate impact assessment and urgent investment in climate-resilient infrastructure. As one of the first pilgrims to embark on the Char Dham Yatra this year, I share a few ground realities that seem to have been taken for granted.

In the early days of the *yatra*, the Uttarakhand government introduced a token system to register every visitor. Irrespective of who was organising the tour, each individual had to register using their Aadhar number, providing full itinerary details as well as the mode of transport. This ensured that toll-like booths were set up well before entry points to each *dham*, where tokens could be conveniently scanned. It was an effective mechanism for crowd management while also generating valuable big data about tourist profiles.

However, as the weeks passed, the system appears not to have been taken seriously, owing to a range of factors. In the initial weeks of the *yatra* -- when locals and domestic tourists constituted about 40% of the total pilgrims and visitors making the journey between April 30 and October 23 – the state government was compelled to mobilise resources. Young college students were deployed to man registration booths, and extra police personnel were brought from distant regions. On our own journey, we often gave travellers a ride, including police personnel posted temporarily in the Char Dham circuit. We also helped locals transit short distances, as they held in their handwoven baskets their household or village deities. I still recall the young woman, Hema, who sat quietly by the Anand Bhairav temple in Bhairo Ghat.

Gangotri stands at a higher elevation compared to the other *dhams*. The second *dham* (moving clockwise and from west to east), as part of the Char Dham Yatra, greets you with her white, sparkling, bubbling energy. Scientists studying how glaciers and geology affect land masses, the flow of rivers and migratory patterns have long provided data about the receding glaciers here.

Harshil, often called the Switzerland of the region, basks in the glory of the majestic ranges and the River Bhagirathi flowing through the town. It is one of the last towns before the Chinese border. Geographically, this region holds importance as the birthplace of the mighty Ganga that feeds and nourishes the plains below and for the defence infrastructure installations due to the proximity to the China border.

The growth of the Char Dham circuit has grown in leaps and bounds over the years. In 2007, I remember my journey vividly to the Valley of Flowers, Hemkund, and Badrinath. Going back after 18 years felt like driving into the Himalayas without the bumpy pothole-ridden roads, with better buses and a number of food options to choose from along the route. I couldn't help but compare this to the roads leading up to Mt Cook in the Southern Island of New Zealand and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (similar altitude of 13,000 feet) – accessible, motorable, yet the sheer numbers of buses and people are two-fold.

This puts significant pressure on the local economies; hence, when a climate extreme event strikes, it is the locals that are most impacted. The night that we halted in Gangotri, we received an alert from the NDMA: "Heavy rainfall in the Uttarkashi region. Please follow all precautions and stay alert." Of course, the locals shrugged it off, saying this was the season for rains, yet we braced up for the unforeseen future, informing family back home, charging mobiles in case of power outages and stocking up on food and water. That morning, the weather seemed fine, and as we rode back towards Uttarkashi, we were stopped by a friendly police person at Bhairo Ghat to request a ride for a young lady who stayed at Dharali *en route*. We opened the door of the vehicle to let Hema in, and she smiled at us. We waved back enthusiastically to Hema as she alighted to head to her village, keeping her basket close to her under her woollen shawl. We hope her gods have kept her safe.

Local knowledge systems, their beliefs and their acumen about climate extremities must be used to act as catalysts for preparedness in such situations. Corporates and governments invest in building adaptation mechanisms, yet climate resilience calls for working with local communities in helping shift the power to make them equally responsible to advocate for issues that could inevitably come in the way of coping with climate extremities. Rampant real estate development, for example, very close to the course of the river, should be strictly banned on all accounts. Heavy fines should be levied, and locals should have a say should outside-the-state entities or large conglomerates like hospitality chains choose to develop large-scale properties in the region. The Himalayas are young, moving mountain chains; the rivers that originate from here constantly change the course of their direction, yet humans claim to be permanent beings in this grand scheme of things by building concrete structures that will crumble like a pack of cards when nature's fury is unravelled.

(The writer is a climate communication speaker and course director while serving as an expert committee advisor on building climate curriculums in a range of educational institutes)

Over the past two years, tens of thousands of children in the territory have been killed, wounded or orphaned. Childhood as they once knew it has ceased to exist

The trauma of childhood in Gaza

PATRICK KINGSLEY AND BILAL SHBAIR

Palestinians at a charity kitchen in Gaza City. THE NEW YORK TIMES

To numb the traumas of wartime in the Gaza Strip, Rahma Abu Abed, 12, plays a game with her friends. They ask one another: What did you eat before the war? What did your home look like before the war? What would you wear if you had new clothes?

For Rahma, who recounted these details in an interview alongside her mother, Heba, the answers are often less soothing than tragic. She hasn't eaten meat in months, her parents said. Her home in southern Gaza has been flattened, satellite imagery shows. Her clothes are mostly under the rubble. The beach, where her parents occasionally took her as a treat before the war, has become her full-time home.

Rahma now lives in a storehouse for fishing equipment with her parents and four siblings, who share the space with several displaced families. She usually eats one meal a day, often lentils or pasta, her parents said. Trying to remember what good food looked like, Rahma plays with the wet sand, shaping it into imaginary meals. "If someone gave me a choice between crayons and bread," Rahma said, "I would choose the bread."

After 22 months of war, childhood in Gaza hardly exists. There are about 1.1 million children in the territory, and nearly all require mental health or psychosocial support, according to research by the United Nations. Most of them have been out of school for nearly two years. After Israel's 11-week blockade on food this year, all children younger than 5 are at risk of acute malnutrition, the UN said.

Israel's military operation, which began after the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, has killed more than 18,000 Palestinians younger than 18, according to Gaza's health authorities, who do not distinguish between civilians and combatants. About two-thirds of them did not reach their teenage years. A *New York Times* investigation last year found that since the start of the war, the Israeli military has significantly loosened safeguards meant to protect civilians, including children.

"Normal markers of childhood are gone, replaced by hunger, fear and all-consuming trauma," said James Elder, a UNICEF spoeksperson who has regularly visited Gaza throughout the war. "This war is being waged as if childhood itself has no place in Gaza." The Israeli military has said that it tries to minimise harm to all civilians, including children, and blamed Hamas militants for hiding among them, sometimes alongside their own families. Soldiers with the Israel Defence Forces have reported seeing children used as lookouts by Palestinian militant groups. "Intentional harm to civilians, and especially to children, is strictly prohibited and completely contrary to both international law and the binding orders of the IDF," the military said in a statement.

As Rahma flicked recently through pre-war photos on a cellphone, she stopped at an image of herself at an ice cream parlor.

"I just stared at it," she said. "I felt like I didn't recognise those days."

Life for Rahma, like that of many children in Gaza, has become one of hunger. Israel has limited food supplies to the enclave since the earliest days of the war, and the situation has worsened since March, when Israel began its blockade. In late May, Israel allowed some food back into the territory, using private contractors to distribute the food from a few sites.

But for families like Rahma's, that did not solve the problem. Reaching the sites is dangerous and exhausting in part because they were built behind Israeli military lines, far from where most people live. Hundreds have been shot and killed by Israeli soldiers as they try to reach the sites, and those who get there unscathed often find the food has already been taken. Israel says its soldiers have fired "warning shots" at people who have strayed from designated access routes toward Israeli military lines.

Reaching the sites is a process that favors the fittest. Rahma's father, Nidal Abu Abed, 42, has often been knocked over during the rush toward the sites, and he was once nearly shot, according to Rahma's mother, Heba Abu Abed, 32. Because he rarely manages to secure a box of food, Heba Abu Abed added, her husband is regularly forced to gather lentil grains or bits of broken pasta that have spilled onto the ground.

While some food is available in the markets, it has often been unaffordable for families like Rahma's; her parents, like the vast majority of Gaza residents, have no work. Although food prices have dropped in recent days after a rise in deliveries, they are still astronomically high. According to the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and Industry, flour cost more than 10 times its prewar price.

Rahma helps her family survive by fetching water. She stands in line every day with several empty plastic containers, waiting for a water truck sent by an aid group. The process lasts for hours in the hot sun, often until the afternoon. People often push past her, knowing she can do little to stop them.

To alleviate the food crisis, which drew global condemnation, Israel recently loosened restrictions on UN food convoys and permitted foreign air forces to airdrop aid packages over Gaza. When Rahma gazes up at those planes, she said, she wishes one would fly her family to a safer place. "I imagine riding on it like a hot-air balloon, going to a country with no war — just food, school and toys," she said.

A world without school

Some 95% of schools have been damaged in the fighting, leaving most children without education for nearly two academic years, according to UN data. Many schools have been turned into displacement camps. Israel has regularly struck them, saying that Hamas leaders have used them as cover.

For Hala Abu Hilal, 10, school, like her home, is inaccessible. She is from Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, which has largely been flattened. She and her family fled their home last year and live in a displacement camp close to a beach miles to the north.

In this camp, there is currently no school, according to Hala's mother, Sanaa Abu Hilal. For a few months, volunteers in the camp ran a makeshift classroom, teaching *ad hoc* classes in a tent, but that system ended when the last truce collapsed in March, Abu said.

The UN tries to provide basic teaching via an online portal; some teachers also send educational material to parents via WhatsApp. But for families like Hala's, the internet is often inaccessible. It's hard to connect for prolonged periods to the phone network, and phone batteries run out quickly. Abu Hilal has a phone with a broken screen that barely responds to her touch. Instead, Abu Hilal tries to teach the children herself. Recently, she did Arabic grammar with Hala; simple geometry with Bisan, 6; and the alphabet with Deema, 5. But the sisters have lost four semesters of learning, while Bisan, who should have started school this year, has never received formal education. Their sister, Tala, 8, seems most affected by the lack of classes. With no school to attend, Tala whiles away the day inventing games, some of which are disturbingly warped by the violence that surrounds her. Once, her mother recalled, Tala picked up a stone and said to her sisters, "I'll throw this stone. Pretend it's an F-16 missile." Then she hurled it at a tent.

Before the war, Abu Hilal said, Tala was the star of her class and sometimes got up in the middle of the night to cram for tests. "I wanted to be a doctor," Tala said in an interview alongside her mother. "I wanted my daddy to build a hospital for me. I wanted to treat everyone for free. My daddy is in heaven now."

A childhood without parents

On one page in his notebook, Sajed al-Ghalban, 10, has drawn a picture of his mother and father at their old home in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza. On another page, there's a drawing of his mother taking him to a vegetable stand. This is the closest Sajed can get to a hug from his parents. His father, Muhammad, and mother, Shireen, were killed in a strike that also destroyed their home in the third week of the war in 2023. The Israeli military said the house had been used for "terror purposes" and declined to comment on whether Muhammad al-Ghalban was the target. One of Sajed's surviving aunts, Amany Abu Salah, said Sajed's father had no links to militant groups. It was not possible to verify either assertion.

Sajed survived the attack unscathed, but his sister Alma, now 12, and brother Abdallah, now 8, suffered head injuries, according to video of the aftermath and their surviving relatives. Alma was later evacuated to Turkiye for treatment, relatives told the *Times*.

For nearly two years, Sajed and Abdallah were cared for by another aunt. Then, in July, that aunt was killed in a strike on a nearby tent that also wounded the boys, according to Abu Salah, the surviving aunt.

The New York Times

Regulate eateries with stricter laws

EDMOND FERNANDES

Human health and well-being depend primarily on the food we consume. While a fast-paced lifestyle and the rapid growth of the restaurant business have undoubtedly created jobs and contributed to the economy, many kitchens in these restaurants remain unchecked. They are rarely monitored for food standards, hygiene of both food and cooks, and the cleanliness of their location and maintenance. Beyond this, food waste and widespread food safety violations plague the restaurant sector, demanding urgent policy intervention.

As a matter of practice, many restaurants use food additives such as monosodium glutamate (MSG) to enhance savoury flavours; sodium nitrite to preserve processed meats; guar gum to thicken sauces and dressings; artificial sweeteners and colours; trans fats; potassium sorbate as a preservative; and butylated hydroxytoluene, among others – all of which carry direct public health consequences.

Most of these additives offer no nutritional value. Research increasingly shows that non-caloric sweeteners, emulsifiers, benzoate preservatives, and artificial colours are linked to heightened risks of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, mental health disorders, carcinogenic effects, cardiovascular diseases and metabolic syndrome. In children, disturbed behavioural patterns have been associated with azo dye colourants and sodium benzoate. In animal studies, many of these chemical agents have shown neurotoxic effects and disruption of the gut microbiome.

At present, municipalities across most towns and cities employ food inspectors, but many are part-time or contractual. Some rarely visit restaurants at all, let alone inspect kitchens for safety and hygiene. The fate of millions of consumers is thus left to the discretion of food handlers who operate according to their own practices. Given this reality, the restaurant industry – including canteens, takeaway joints, street food outlets and food ordered via delivery aggregators – resembles an "atomic bomb" model for gut-related disorders, adult obesity and comorbidities, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic syndrome, mental health issues and even cancers.

The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, together with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has a timely opportunity to collaborate with institutes of public health and NGOs across the country to develop a framework for effective public health monitoring of food outlets. Proactive district magistrates could also play a role by creating local task forces to strengthen food safety norms.

Such a framework must cover the prevention of foodborne illnesses, strict adherence to food safety and hygiene standards, the proper use of cleaning agents, and tighter regulation of food additives. Food contamination must be closely monitored and contained.

Food waste protocols must also be implemented. A portion of this waste can be channelled to support stray animals, particularly dogs and cats, thereby building an inclusive one-health policy through district-level protocols. The framework should also include inventory management, safe storage practices, customer service models and menu design as part of its monitoring and regulatory mechanisms.

According to the Food Waste Index Report 2021 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), India generates about 68.7 million tonnes of food waste annually, of which 11.9 million tons come from the food service sector --including caterers, canteens, hotels, and other establishments. This waste offers opportunities for policy innovation, particularly by addressing pre-consumer waste: food prepared but uneaten, stored food, leftovers from large events, and unconsumed takeaway items. While consumed food waste can support hungry animals in a meaningful way, inedible waste must be safely disposed of to prevent disease outbreaks.

As non-communicable diseases rise and young people face growing vulnerability to obesity, metabolic syndrome and heart diseases, "food for health governance" must become a policy priority. Worrying practices such as reusing cooking oil, undercooking food to cut costs, storing food at unsafe temperatures, procuring supplies from unsafe sources, inadequate cold storage, and the presence of flies, rodents and other vectors in kitchens all contribute to poor food-health governance.

Climate-induced challenges – heat waves, flooding and other extreme weather events – further complicate food storage and handling, with direct implications for food security and sustainability. It is essential that food systems and health systems converge to regulate the restaurant sector, ensuring that health and safety remain integral to business operations.

Inspections must focus on preventive health outcomes for citizens, with an emphasis on homegrown and organic produce, minimal use of food additives, colours and preservatives, and strict hygiene standards both inside and outside the kitchen. These must form the backbone of a regulatory framework rooted in public health and safety outcomes.

(The writer is honorary director of the Edward & Cynthia Institute of Public Health, Mangaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 1975

Bangla will honour all bilateral pacts with India

New Delhi, August 18
The new government of Bangla Desh has officially informed the Government of India that it would honour all its bilateral agreements and obligations. The new government has also made it clear that there has been no change in the name of the Republic. In a formal note to the Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca, Mr. A. K. Das, the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Bangla Desh reiterated that the Government would honour all agreements and obligations.

25 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 2000

State bans Ajalu practice

Bangalore, Aug 18
The State government has promulgated the Karnataka Koragas (Prohibition of Ajalu Practice) Ordinance, 2000, banning the use of Koraga community people for Ajalu practice in some parts of the State, especially in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. The ordinance aims at preventing the exploitation of the Koraga community. Koragas, numbering about 19,000 in the State, were either paid no wages or offered low salaries for services rendered to the upper castes, and were at times treated as inferior human beings.

OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

The present is a great gift

Sayings often speak volumes. One of them goes, 'There are two days one can't do anything about – yesterday and tomorrow'. It is clear enough that 'yesterday' refers to the past and 'tomorrow' stands for the future.

This is so because the past is gone and nothing can be done to change it; the future, on the other hand, is yet to come and is completely unknown. What we have is the 'present' and therefore we should make every effort to make it useful and worthwhile.

By and large, it must be said, that most of us cling to the past, bring it alive in our minds, wallowing in it at times. This is specially so if we have been misunderstood, abused or otherwise treated badly. It needs strict discipline to look only at positive moments and take courage and encouragement from them. Others immerse themselves in building a rosy future. They become workaholics, are busy making money, even though they have to ride roughshod over others They do not realize that their plans can backfire without any warning.

The past and the future are only inventions. Both of them are quite out of reach and neither can be changed.

We are left with what we call the 'present'. What, however, is the 'present'? The Dalai Lama has answered this question with characteristic simplicity and beauty. He has pointed out that when we are able to think of the present, it has already become the past and when we think about a point of time even slightly ahead, it is the future. We may reduce this difference into very small units like nanoseconds, but it still remains the future.

Going by this logic, we are forced to conclude that there is no 'present'. In terms that are perfectly logical, there is only 'timelessness'.

Those who claim that they are living in and for the present are actually living in 'timelessness'. They do not care about the past, or the future and indeed even the present. They live in uprightness; they value the opportunity that they have to live Life honorably. They raise themselves from the worries of the past, present and the future. For them, the 'present' is indeed a great gift!

Asset non-disclosure shouldn't lead to poll result invalidation: SC

Says asset and education disclosure are supplementary requirements

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court has said just because a winning candidate has not disclosed information related to the assets, courts should not rush to invalidate the election by adopting a highly pedantic and fastidious approach.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said it has to be ascertained if such concealment or non-disclosure was of such magnitude and substantial nature that it could have influenced the election result.

"The true test, in our opinion, would be whether the non-disclosure of information about assets in any case is of consequential or inconsequential import, a finding of which will be the basis for declaring the election valid or void, as the case may be," the bench said.

The court stressed this disclosure requirement, as far as assets and educational qualifications are concerned, should not be unreasonably stretched to invalidate an otherwise validly declared election over minor technical noncompliances that are not of substantial character and should not be the basis for nullification of the people's mandate.

The court underscored that the voice of the people and collective wisdom should be respected, which can even be placed on the highest pedestal of divine authority.

"This right to know the backgrounds of candidates, which corresponds to their obligation to disclose such information, must, however, be balanced with the people's mandate expressed through ballot boxes, which is central to democracy," the bench said.

SURPEME COURT

"Merely because a returned candidate has not disclosed certain information related to the assets, courts should not rush to invalidate the election by adopting a highly pedantic and fastidious approach, unless it is shown that such concealment or non-disclosure was of such magnitude and substantial nature that it could have influenced the election result.

The court dismissed an appeal filed by INC candidate Ajmera Shyam against the election of Kova Laxmi as the BRS candidate in the Telangana Assembly elections held on December 3, 2023.

It said nondisclosure of income tax returns for four financial years out of the last five financial years in the Form 26 Affidavit by the winning candidate was not a defect of substantial character.

"While disclosure of criminal antecedents in the electoral process was the most critical element to maintain the purity of the electoral process, which has to be scrupulously adhered to, disclosure of assets and educational qualifications was considered as attending supplementary requirements to strengthen the electoral process, of which there will be certain scope for consideration as to whether it is of substantial or inconsequential nature," the bench said in its August 14 judgment.

The participation by voters who are well-informed not only of the affairs of the state but also with knowledge of the candidates' backgrounds invigorates the electoral process, reaffirming that election is one of the fundamental features of democracy.

Voters obtain essential information about the candidates through the exercise of the fundamental right to know about them, derived from Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, it pointed out.

Upholding Telangana High Court's dismissal of the election petition, the bench said that an income tax statement is not to be considered as a statement of fact of the existence of assets or source of income.

Why should commuter pay toll if stuck in jam for hours: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) why a commuter should pay Rs 150 toll if it took 12 hours to cover a 65-km highway stretch in Thrissur, Kerala.

"Why should commuters pay toll if stuck in a jam for hours?" asked a bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria while hearing an appeal filed by the NHAI and concessionaire, Guruvayoor Infrastructure, challenging a Kerala High Court order suspending toll collection at the Paliyekkara toll plaza in Thrissur.

"Why should a person pay Rs 150 if it takes 12 hours for him to get from one end of the road to the other end? A road which is expected to take one hour, takes 11 more hours, and they have to pay a toll as well," the bench asked the NHAI, which stated it was maintaining the toll plaza.

The Supreme Court on August 14 also refused to interfere with the Kerala HC's order. It then told the NHAI: "Instead of filing an appeal and wasting time, it should do something."

The Kerala HC on August 6 ordered a four-week suspension of toll collection, observing that motorists could not be charged when the highway was badly maintained and traffic congestion was severe.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the NHAI, had argued that the HC ruling "wrongly" allowed the concessionaire, Guruvayoor Infrastructure Ltd, to recover losses from the NHAI.

Kerala CPM hit by fresh row over illegal deals

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The CPM-led government in Kerala has landed in trouble after Chennai-based businessman Mohammed Sharshad alleged that state secretary M V Govindan's son had leaked a confidential complaint he sent to party general secretary MA Baby, which disclosed illegal financial deals of party leaders.

The row is over the alleged links of many party leaders with a CPM member, Rajesh Krishna, a UK-based businessman.

The complaint by Mohammed Sharshad against Krishna to the CPM politburo in 2021 alleges shady dealings of many senior party leaders with Krishna and 'pocketing' government funds using fictitious firms operated by Krishna in the UK.

Sharshad alleged that Govindan's son could have leaked the letter owing to his dealings with Sharshad.

This is not the first allegation against Krishna.

Krishna later filed a defamation suit at the Delhi High Court against the 'baseless allegations'. The complaint filed by Sharshad against him to the Politburo was also included with the complaint.

Local self-government minister M B Rajesh and former finance minister Thomas Isaac, who were allegedly having links with the UK-based businessman, termed the allegations baseless. The CPM state secretary also outrightly rejected the allegations.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan and BJP leader V Muraleedhran sought a detailed inquiry into the allegations.

Cop trying to save stray dog mowed down by car in UP

GHAZIABAD (UP), PTI: A sub-inspector died here on Monday after a car mowed her down as she fell from her motorcycle trying to save a stray dog, police said.

The accident occurred around 2 pm when Richa Sachan (25) was returning home from Kavi Nagar police station after finishing duty. "The motorcycle hit a stray dog due to which she lost her balance and fell on the road. A car coming from behind ran over her and despite wearing helmet she was severely injured," Additional Commissioner of Police Bhaskar Verma said.

Upon receiving information, a police team reached the spot and took her to Sarvodaya Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead, he said.

Putin calls Modi, shares insights on Alaska talks

Both leaders discuss bilateral cooperation issues

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday received a call from President Vladimir Putin, who briefed him on the recent Russia-US summit in Alaska.

Putin shared with Modi his assessment of the meeting with US President Donald Trump.

While thanking Putin, Modi underlined India's consistent position for a peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict through diplomacy and dialogue. He reiterated that India supports all efforts in this regard, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) press release.

"Thank my friend, President Putin, for his phone call and for sharing insights on his recent meeting with President Trump in Alaska. India has consistently called for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and supports all efforts in this regard. I look forward to our continued exchanges in the days to come," Modi posted on X after his phone call with Putin.

According to MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, the two leaders also discussed bilateral cooperation issues to further strengthen the two nations' special and privileged strategic partnership.

They discussed prospects of a long-term resolution to the Ukrainian crisis and agreed to maintain dialogue on the matter, as well as on other pressing international issues, according to a press release issued by the Kremlin.

Modi and Putin had earlier discussed bilateral trade and economic relations during a phone call on August 8—just days after Trump had not only criticised New Delhi for buying oil and weapons from Russia but also doubled the tariff on India's exports to the United States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin. PTI FILE

PM chairs key meet on next-gen reforms

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting, which included top union ministers, secretaries and economists, to deliberate on the roadmap for the next-generation reforms.

"Chaired a meeting to discuss the roadmap for next-generation reforms. We are committed to speedy reforms across all sectors, which will boost Ease of Living, Ease of Doing Business and prosperity," Modi said in a post on X.

Top ministers, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, attended the meeting.

The meeting comes days after the prime minister announced plans to reform the goods and services tax (GST) system and lower taxes on the common man.

In his Independence Day speech, the PM also announced the formation of a task force for next-generation economic reforms.

"For the next generation reforms, we have decided to constitute a task force. This task force will complete its work within a set timeframe. Current rules, laws, policies, and procedures must be re-drafted to suit the 21st century, to fit the global environment, and to align with the vision of making Bharat a developed nation by 2047," Modi said, speaking from the Red Fort on the occasion of the 79th Independence Day.

The government's push to economic reforms comes amid heightened trade tensions with the United States.

People move a cart with domestic gas cylinders through a waterlogged road following rainfall in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

Maha: 7 killed in rain-related incidents, 250 stranded

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A cloudburst-triggered heavy rainfall led to flooding in Maharashtra's Mukhed in Nanded district, stranding over 250 people, even as half a dozen rain-related deaths were reported in the Marathwada region on Monday.

In Mukhed, the Indian Army is assisting the civil authorities to carry out relief measures.

In Marathwada, three rain-related deaths were reported from Nanded, while two died in Beed and one in Hingoli.

In Vidarbha, one death was reported from Akola.

In Mumbai, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and state Disaster Management Minister Girish Mahajan reviewed the situation.

"There has been a significant rise in the water level of Lendi dam, an inter-state irrigation project between Maharashtra and Telangana, located in the taluka, more than 600 km from here, while large amount of water is flowing into the area from Latur, Udgir and neighbouring Karnataka state," Fadnavis told reporters, adding that the state government was in touch with their counterparts in the two neighbouring states.

"On Sunday, the rainfall was approximately 206 mm. As a result, daily life in Ravangaon, Bhaswadi, Bhingeli, and Hasnal has been affected. In Ravangaon, in the Mukhed taluka, 225 persons are stranded. Efforts are underway to relocate the remaining citizens to safer locations," he said, adding that at least five persons are reported missing.

As many as 486 partial collapses of dwellings and walls were reported, sources said.

"One NDRF team, one Army unit, and a police team are working in coordination for the rescue efforts. An Army unit from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar has also been dispatched. The local administration has been instructed to stay in the affected areas and coordinate continuously," the CM said after the review at the Mantralaya Control Room.

Across Maharashtra, nearly 4 lakh hectares of crops are under water.

Mumbai reels under 200 mm rain in 8 hours

The normal life in the Mumbai metropolitan region (MMR) was thrown out of gear as heavy rain pounded the financial capital, affecting road, train, and air transport, even as a red alert was sounded for the next 24 hours. Several locations in the city recorded more than 200 mm of rainfall, according to observations by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

People were seen wading through knee-deep and waist-deep waters as water gushed into the low-lying areas.

Top court grants bail to former Bengal minister in job scam

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee in one of the teachers' recruitment cases. Despite the order, Chatterjee will not be released immediately, as several cases linked to the primary teachers' recruitment scam are still pending against him. He was earlier granted bail in an ED case as well.

Partha Chatterjee

A bench allowed the appeal filed by Chatterjee against the rejection of bail, observing how long he should remain in custody and whether it amounted to punishment.

The court also directed the passing of an order on the framing of charges within four weeks, as sanction had already been granted in his case. It further ordered the examination of material witnesses within two months thereafter.

'Is this a joke?': HC on Assam's mega tribal land deal

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Gauhati High Court recently took objection to the allotment of 3,000 bighas (around 1,840 hectares) of land in Assam's Dima Hasao district to a Kolkata-based private cement firm, and directed the authorities to furnish details of the policy under which "such a huge chunk of land" was allotted.

Dima Hasao is a tribal-dominated district and is protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. An autonomous body named the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council governs the district.

The matter came up during the hearing of petitions filed by at least 22 local tribals who opposed their eviction from the land because of the allotment to Mahabal Cement Private Limited in 2024.

"3,000 bighas!... What is going on? 3,000 bighas allotted to a private company?... What kind of decision is this? Is this some kind of joke or what?" asked Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi during the hearing on August 12, when Mahabal Cement's counsel G Goswami mentioned the allotment.

The matter gained public attention after a video of the court hearing was shared on social media. The judge observed that the land allotted to the firm would be the size of the entire district.

Goswami informed the court that the state government allotted the land as it was needed for the construction of a cement factory. Mahabal Cement formally signed an MoU with the BJP-led Assam government during an investment summit organised in February this year for the construction of a cement plant in Dima Hasao.

Goswami told the court that the allotment was made pursuant to a mining lease granted under a tender process. The investment summit was organised to attract investment to the state.

'Extraordinary'

In his order to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council seeking details of the policy under which the land was allotted, Justice Medhi observed, "A cursory glance into the facts of the case would reveal that the land which has been sought to be allotted is about 3,000 bighas, which itself appears to be extraordinary."

He added: "The direction has been given by taking into account that the district is a Sixth Scheduled district under the Constitution, where the priority has to be given to the rights and interests of the tribal people residing there."

The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for September 1.

Rlys used freight profit to hedge passenger-service losses: CAG

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Railways utilised the profit from freight traffic to cross-subsidise losses on the operation of passenger and other coaching services during 2022-23, a latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report has shown.

The report, tabled in the on going Parliament session, said during 2022-23, the Ministry of Railways' total expenditure was Rs 4,41,642.66 crore (11.34% more than the previous year), which comprised Rs 2,03,983.08 crore (7.21% more than the previous year) of capital expenditure and Rs 2,37,659.58 crore (15.15% more than the previous year) of revenue expenditure.

The ministry incurred around 72.22% of the total working expenses on staff costs, pension payments, and lease hire charges on rolling stock.

Gross traffic receipts during 2022-23 were Rs 2,39,982.56 crore, reflecting an increase of 25.51% over the previous year.

The increase in total receipts was mainly on account of an increase in passenger earnings, other coaching earnings, and freight earnings. Transportation of coal constituted 50.42% of freight earnings.

The Operating Ratio (OR) was 98.10% in 2022-23 against 107.39% in 2021-22.

Indian Railways generated a net surplus during 2022-23 compared to a net deficit in 2021-22.

The loss on operation of passenger and other coaching services decreased compared to the previous year. The loss of Rs 5,257.07 crore in passenger operations was left uncovered during 2022-23, the CAG report said.

The report also recorded the biggest operational loss from the Sleeper Class, Ordinary Class, and Second Class.

The profit from freight traffic was utilised to cross-subsidise the loss on operation of passenger services, it added.

Railway's total earnings and expenditure from its operations, when compared with its cross-subsidising records, showed that it understated its expenditure in the financial year 2022-23, the CAG report said.

The CAG found that while the Railways, after working out its earnings and expenditures, presented a net profit of Rs 2,517.38 crore, when the loss in passenger services was compensated by the profit from freight services, it showed a net loss of Rs 5,257.07 crore.

Justice Dhulia to head search panel for Kerala VC appointments

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the ongoing tussle between the Kerala government and the state governor, the Supreme Court on Monday appointed retired judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as the chairperson of the search-cum-selection committee to shortlist names of regular vice-chancellor appointments in two universities—APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University and University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Justice K V Viswanathan made the appointment after hearing Kerala Governor's plea, which challenged Kerala High Court's decision that quashed the chancellor's appointment of a temporary vice chancellor of the university without the state government's recommendation.

SMART CROOKS

Duo steals from trader-employer, invests in SIPs

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

One often hears of thieves splurging stolen money on luxuries, but in Lucknow, a couple took a more "fiscally responsible" route.

After stealing cash and valuables from their employer, who is a trader, they invested the loot in systematic investment plans (SIPs), fixed deposits (FDs), life insurance policies, and even purchased land worth Rs 10 lakh to secure their future.

According to police sources, the theft came to light when the trader checked his jewellery boxes and almirahs and found cash missing.

A complaint was later lodged with the police.

Police said the alleged culprits, residents of Madhubani district in Bihar, had been working there for several years and had gained the confidence of the trader. They also looked after the house during their employer's absence.

The couple made sure to steal gradually and in small quantities so as not to attract the owner's attention.

The couple, according to police, invested heavily in mutual funds, bought a few life insurance policies and purchased a piece of land worth Rs 10 lakh in the town with the stolen money.

After the trader lodged a complaint with the police, the couple managed to escape.

Police said they are gathering details of the investments and have launched a search for the duo. "It's something new... the thefts were meticulously planned," said a police officer.

AP: Alprazolam racket busted

HYDERABAD, DHNS: **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths busted a clandestine Alprazolam manufacturing facility in Atchutapuram, Andhra Pradesh.**

The officials seized approximately 119.4 kg of Alprazolam worth Rs 23.88 crore and arrested 8 people. The arrests included the mastermind, chemists, financiers, and buyers at the same facility.

SC seeks insurance cover for 'braveheart' cadets injured during training

Asks Centre to explore scheme to bring them back into defence services

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to explore the possibility of providing insurance cover to cadets undergoing rigorous training at military academies, to safeguard against disabilities or injuries sustained during training.

"If there is group insurance for cadets, even the department won't be burdened — it will fall on the insurer. The risk is very high. We want brave people to join the military, but if they are not given adequate benefits, they will be disheartened," said a bench.

Taking up a suo motu matter, the SC issued notice to the Centre on Monday.

The court registered the case after taking cognisance of a news report, which highlighted the pain and suffering endured by military cadets who sustained injuries during training. "We noted the article... We deliberated and resolved to place it before the Chief Justice of India to treat it as a suo motu writ petition. The CJI considered it and placed it before this bench. We issue notice in the suo motu writ petition," it said.

The SC asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to seek instructions on enhancing the Rs 40,000 ex gratia amount granted to cadets who suffer disabilities during military training, to meet medical expenses.

It also asked the Centre to explore a scheme for the rehabilitation of disabled candidates back into the forces, through desk jobs or any other work related to defence services, after their treatment is over.

"We want braveheart cadets to be in the forces. We don't want injuries or disability to be any kind of deterrent to these cadets, who undergo training after clearing various competitive examinations."

The court scheduled the matter for further hearing on September 4.

On August 12, the SC registered a suo motu case after taking cognisance of the news report that spotlighted the plight of officer cadets who were medically discharged from top military academies such as the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy.

According to the report, nearly 500 cadets have been discharged since 1985 due to varying degrees of disability sustained during training.

The report noted that such cadets are not entitled to the status of ex-servicemen, which would have made them eligible under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme for free treatment at military facilities and empanelled hospitals, since their disabilities occurred during training, before they were commissioned as officers.

Hyderabad: 6 electrocuted during Janmashtami festivities

HYDERABAD, DHNS: In a tragic incident during Janmashtami celebrations, six people died of electrocution and four others were injured when a chariot carrying Lord Krishna's idol came into contact with live electric wires in Ramanthapur's Gokhale Nagar area in Hyderabad in the early hours of Monday.

Ten people were pushing the vehicle forward when it came into contact with overhead electric wires.

Local residents, initially panicked by the incident, quickly regained composure and administered first aid before rushing the victims to the hospital. Doctors confirmed that five people were dead on arrival.

The injured were admitted to a local private hospital for treatment, but one of them lost his life, bringing the toll to six.

Telangana Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu directed the concerned authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and take strict action against those responsible for this.

He also instructed officials to ensure that such incidents did not recur, and to pay special attention to safety standards during public gatherings.

The minister also ordered that the injured receive the best possible medical care, and sought a detailed report on their health conditions.

SC rejects AAP MP's plea against UP 'closing' schools

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea filed by AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, who had challenged the validity of the Uttar Pradesh government's decision to merge 105 government-run primary schools with nearby schools because they had zero or very few enrolments.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih dismissed the petition, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, as withdrawn since similar matters were already pending before the Allahabad High Court.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, contended that the future of hundreds of students was at stake.

The bench, however, stated that, as it was a local issue and did not spill over into other states, the Allahabad High Court should examine it.

The court said that since the matter involved the enforcement of statutory rights under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and the HC was already seized of the matter, it was better for it to decide.

The court granted liberty to the petitioner to approach the HC, and asked it to decide the matter expeditiously.

The petitioner claimed the Uttar Pradesh government's decision to "shut down" 105 schools, made in June this year, was illegal, arbitrary, and unconstitutional.

His plea contended that the RTE Rules mandated the establishment of primary schools for Classes I to V within a 1-km radius of every habitation with a population of at least 300 people.

"The decision violates the constitutional and statutory rights of children under Article 21A of the Constitution and the RTE Act. Children in the age group of six to 11 years — particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minority communities, and girls — are the most adversely affected," his plea said.

TDP MLA faces flak over audio clip abusing Jr NTR; denies involvement

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Anantapur Urban TDP MLA Daggubati Venkateswara Prasad has landed in trouble after a purported audio recording of him making derogatory remarks about Jr NTR went viral.

The MLA later released a video message dismissing the audio as fabricated. He also faced criticism from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

According to the audio clip, Jr NTR fan association leader Dhanunjay Naidu had called the MLA to invite him for a special screening of *War 2*. The MLA was allegedly heard hurling abuses at Jr NTR for his supposed disrespect toward TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh. The MLA also reportedly predicted the movie would be a major disaster and threatened to stop the film's screening.

Outraged by the MLA's alleged remarks, Jr NTR fans tore down the MLA's banners and staged demonstrations outside his residence.

In a subsequent video message, the MLA denied the authenticity of the audio recording, claiming it was part of a political conspiracy.

"For the past 16 months, conspiracies have been plotted against me in the Urban constituency. From the beginning, I have been an admirer of the Nandamuri family. I have always enjoyed watching Balakrishna and NTR's movies. But now, fake audio calls have been created as if I abused Jr NTR. If the audio call has hurt the sentiments of NTR's fans, I apologise. Though I have no connection to it, since my name has been mentioned, I am offering this apology. I will always remain loyal to the Nara and Nandamuri families," he said.

The MLA said he had filed a complaint with the SP regarding the fabricated audio clip.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW QUICK YOUR REFLEXES ARE ON THIS GAME ALEX!
THANKS!
BUT I MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF AN ADVANTAGE
OH?
I STOPPED AND GOT A CARAMEL MACCHIATO WITH EXTRA ESPRESSO AFTER SCHOOL!

Hagar The Horrible

WELCOME TO THE CREW! ANY QUESTIONS?
YEAH! WHAT'S THE TUBBY BOSS LIKE? DOES HE GET IN YOUR FACE?
SIGN UP HERE
NO, BUT HE WILL SNEAK UP BEHIND YOU!

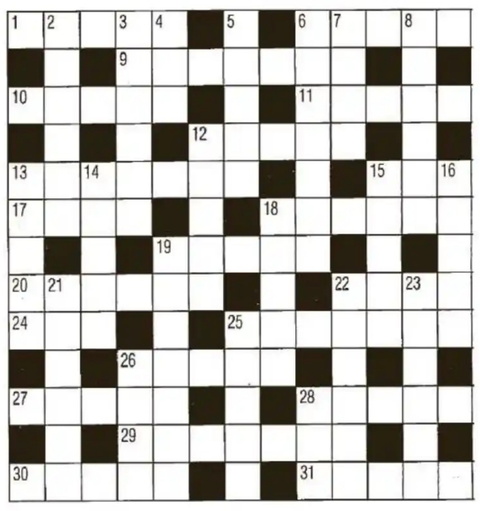
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

TODAY WE SHOULD REVIEW WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT FIRST-AID
OLIVIER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE ALONE IN THE FOREST, AND YOU HURT YOURSELF?
ALL RIGHT, BUT LET'S SAY YOUR MOTHER COULDN'T HEAR YOU...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12228



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Photograph a sporting event (5)
6 One piece of land that may belong to the church (5)
9 Drinking in the street (7)
10 Tolerate the wrong idea about Brideshead (5)
11 Extinguish with a lot of water (5)
12 Lady originally famous at a sitting (5)
13 Sovereign ahead in time (7)
15 Guided by a little coloured light (3)
17 Place in a job anywhere in Scotland (4)
18 A bent old soldier? (6)
19 In town, a dog returning out of turn (5)
20 To Popeye's girlfriend, he's a Romeo (6)
22 What Lisa changed her name to? (4)
24 Neither is in ignorance (3)
25 State a medical condition (7)
26 Neutral, always, yet it's negative! (5)
27 Forbid misuse of bread (5)
28 Is such love pettish? (5)
29 Ran with some difficulty? (7)
30 Leaps around with Michael (5)
31 Damage to the stern? (5)

DOWN
2 Fraternise in a warm place with a toff (6)
3 Like batsman number eleven, may well get out (3,3)
4 A legend, in this case, is not the letter G! (3)
5 Something to do with your teeth (5)
6 It's between France and Spain (7)
7 Rigorous Russian? (4)
8 The chap to interview as tenant (6)
12 Player mislaying a coat at the air terminal (5)
13 Always in the moon, a raw beginner is not bright (5)
14 It's as low as you can get (5)
15 City that simply has to be in Los Angeles? (5)
16 Getting a drink out of some men is pure fantasy! (5)
18 Is the viper putting you on? (5)
19 He gives orders all over the place (7)
21 Are they fond of leftovers? (6)
22 Deceive, possibly due to being sick (6)
23 Legless, has difficulty getting to the end of the street (6)
25 Hold up a crooked deal that's nearly concluded (5)
26 Vietnamese title? (4)
28 Repertory company's period piece (3)

ACROSS
1 Snatches (5)
6 Edge (5)
9 Country (7)
10 Tarnish (5)
11 A yellowish-white (5)
12 Herb type (5)
13 Diver (7)
15 Observe (3)
17 At one time (4)
18 Cleaning cloth (6)
19 Assistants (5)
20 Seizes wrongfully (6)
22 Petty lies (4)
24 Knight's title (3)
25 Candidate (7)
26 Baa (5)
27 Striped animal (5)
28 Assumed name (5)
29 Spartan (7)
30 Endure (5)
31 Anaesthetic (5)

DOWN
2 Go back (6)
3 River crossing (6)
4 Male offspring (3)
5 Devil (5)
6 Wicked or cruel (7)
7 Nobleman (4)
8 Pointed tuftlike beard (6)
12 Foundation (5)
13 Concentrate (5)
14 Happen (5)
15 Beer mug (5)
16 Rub out (5)
18 Warehouse (5)
19 Clap (7)
21 Noiseless (6)
22 Remove bones from (6)
23 Be careful (6)
25 Smart, informally (5)
26 Grain husks (4)
28 Land measure (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12227

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, C-hump 8, MOT-O-R 10, Oasis 11, Was 12,Trout 13, Went for 15, Sepal 18, O-af 19, Serena 21, Fun fair 22, Heat 23, Demo 24, Fea-the-r 26, Ari-ses 29, Ear 31,Ton-Al 32, Seminar 34, Titan 35, Dug 36, A-gain 37, Let go 38, Neigh.
DOWN: 1,Towel 2, Lo(ok)-st-out 4, He-RR(R) 5, Mouser 6, Pate-r 7, M-il-an 9,Ta(w)n(y) 12,Tof-fees 14, FA-n 16, Peter 17, Lay on 19, S-I-X-teen 20, Wh-E-at 21, Fag-in 23, De-rid-ed 24, Feline 25, Ham 27, Rouge 28, Satin 30, Ba-GG-y 32, Sang 33, NUT.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Sauna 8, So far 10, Album 11, Pit 12, Debut 13, Kitchen 15, Set on 18, Ham 19, Serene 21, Begonia 22, Edit 23, Pear 24, Residue 26, Adores 29, Lad 31,Totem 32, Waddles 34, Foyer 35, Ian 36, Comet 37, Anger 38, Reeks.
DOWN: 1,Topic 2, Hatchet 4, Aden 5, Nausea 6, Alter 7, Futon 9, Fit 12, Demotes 14, Hag 16,Tepee 17, Nears 19, Similar 20, Get at 21, Bigot 23, Pudding 24, Remote 25, Dad 27, Donor 28, Refer 30, Genes 32, Week 33, Lag.

◆SU-DO-KU-6679◆

			7	6		2		
6					8		3	
				3		4		
2	1					8	9	
		8				5		
	3	4					2	1
		5		2				
	6		8					5
		1		4	7			

hard

SOLUTION TO 6678

9	1	4	6	3	5	2	8	7
5	7	6	8	2	9	3	4	1
3	2	8	1	7	4	5	6	9
4	5	7	9	6	1	8	3	2
8	6	9	3	4	2	1	7	5
2	3	1	5	8	7	4	9	6
1	8	3	7	5	6	9	2	4
7	9	2	4	1	8	6	5	3
6	4	5	2	9	3	7	1	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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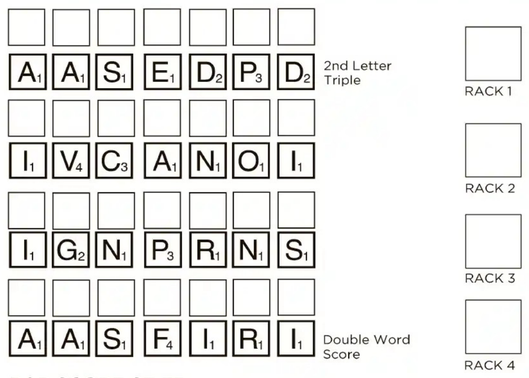
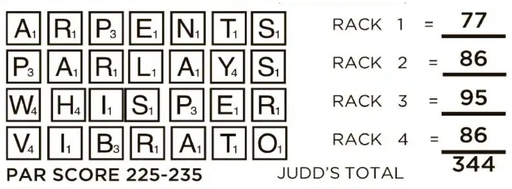

A1 A1 S1 E1 D2 P3 D2
2nd Letter Triple
I1 V4 C3 A1 N1 O1 I1
I1 G2 N1 P3 R1 N1 S1
A1 A1 S1 F4 I1 R1 I1
Double Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 65-75
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



PAR SCORE 225-235
JUDD'S TOTAL

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IGNAA

NURET

WNCERH

GMYOLO

What do you think? Am I trimming it or shaving it?
Just trim it. I think it's really coming in nicely now.
SHE HAD DOUBTED THAT SHE'D LIKE HIS NEW BEARD, BUT IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOILY GAUZE BLOTCH MAINLY
Answer: When he complained about how full he was, his wife told him to stop his — BELLYACHING

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HITORI-3133

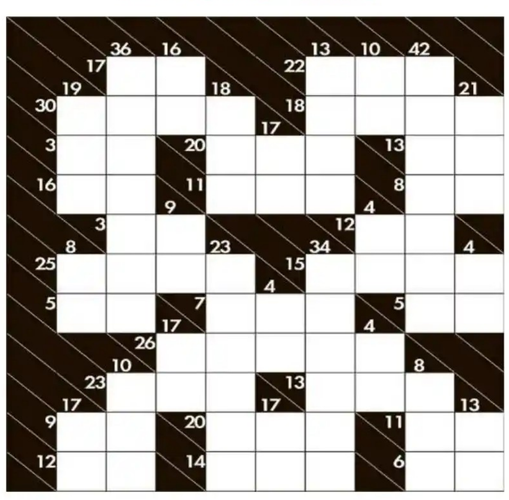
2	7	2	1	2	6	3	4
3	7	6	2	5	8	4	2
8	5	7	3	2	2	2	6
1	3	4	1	2	3	5	8
7	6	2	2	8	1	2	5
5	2	1	2	4	2	6	2
2	8	5	6	3	4	6	1
3	4	2	8	2	7	2	1

SOLUTION TO 3132

■	5	■	3	■	4	■	6
8	4	1	5	2	6	7	3
5	■	4	8	■	1	6	■
■	6	5	■	3	2	■	4
1	■	3	6	■	5	4	2
7	3	2	■	5	8	■	1
3	■	8	7	4	■	1	5
■	1	7	4	■	3	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3133



SOLUTION TO 3132

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3651

■	4		3	8		6		■
	■					■		
		■				2		
			■		■		7	3
		1		9	7			
		2	8		■			
6		■	4			■		
	3						8	
■		7	2	5	8	3		■

SOLUTION TO 3650

7	5	4	6	1	3	8	9	2
2	1	8	4	5	9	3	6	7
3	9	6	8	2	7	4	1	5
6	8	1	2	7	5	9	4	3
5	4	3	9	8	1	2	7	6
9	2	7	3	6	4	1	5	8
4	6	9	7	3	8	5	2	1
8	7	5	1	9	2	6	3	4
1	3	2	5	4	6	7	8	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

GREEN AGENDA

Nepal urges regional unity on Hindu Kush climate change crisis

Paudel urges united response to biodiversity and pollution threats

KATHMANDU, PTI

Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Monday called for regional cooperation to address the crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

Inaugurating the two-day Hindu Kush Himalaya Parliamentarians' Meet here, Paudel said, "This conference is the beginning of a roadmap for the present and a commitment for the future."

The high-level regional gathering brought together around 200 delegates, including parliamentarians, policymakers, environmental scientists, climate experts, and media from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, which spans 3,500 km from Afghanistan to Myanmar, to foster collaboration on urgent climate, environmental, and development issues.

"With parliamentarians' support, cooperation, and foresight, it would be possible to address the common crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution (in the HKH region)," Paudel said.

The event is organised by the Committee of Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Natural Resources of Nepal's Federal Parliament in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Highlighting the transboundary nature of challenges like disasters, air pollution, and biodiversity loss, ICIMOD Director General Pema Gyamtsho said, "HKH is becoming an epicentre of multi-hazards with increasing vulnerabilities from geological, hydrological, and climatic risks."

"Despite their global importance, mountain ecosystems remain under-represented in regional and international climate forums, plans and policies. The existing frameworks often overlook the unique challenges and contributions of mountain regions, leaving them inadequately addressed in global environmental governance," he said.

Kusum Devi Thapa, chair of the organising committee, stressed the need for collaboration among legislative, executive, and judicial bodies, supported by media, development partners, and the scientific community, to address the region's environmental crisis.

Nepal Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba, Environment Minister Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, and parliamentarian Bir Bahadur Balayar emphasised the importance of regional cooperation and high-level political commitment to tackle the escalating climate crisis.

The meeting featured three panel discussions on biodiversity conservation, the future of the HKH region, and the role of parliamentarians in mitigating climate disasters.

The delegates noted that the impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems extend beyond immediate disasters, causing biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, water scarcity, and wide-ranging socio-economic consequences for high mountain communities.

Hamas accepts proposed deal for ceasefire with Israel

Plan calls for 60-day truce and hostage release

RAFAH (EGYPT), AP/PTI

Hamas said on Monday it had accepted a new proposal from Arab mediators for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, but Israel indicated its positions had not changed, as Gaza's health ministry reported the Palestinian death toll from 22 months of war had passed 62,000.

US President Donald Trump cast doubt on the long-running negotiations in which Washington has also been involved. "We will only see the return of the remaining hostages when Hamas is confronted and destroyed!!! The sooner this takes place, the better the chances of success will be," he posted on social media.

Israel recently announced plans to reoccupy Gaza City and other densely populated areas after earlier ceasefire talks collapsed, raising fears of a worsening humanitarian catastrophe in the territory, which aid agencies warn is sliding into famine.

Families arrive with their belongings in Nuseirat as they flee their homes in Gaza City on Monday. AFP

Plans to expand the offensive, partly to pressure Hamas, have triggered international criticism and anger among Israelis worried for the remaining hostages taken during the October 7, 2023, attack that started the war. Hundreds of thousands joined mass protests on Sunday demanding their return.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said mediators were "exerting extensive efforts" to revive a US proposal for a 60-day truce, during which some of the remaining 50 hostages would be released while negotiations continued for a lasting ceasefire and the return of others. He said US envoy Steve Witkoff was being invited to join the talks.

Abdelatty spoke during a visit to Egypt's Rafah crossing with Gaza, closed since Israel seized the Palestinian side in May 2024. He was accompanied by Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, sidelined since the war began.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani has joined the talks, which also include senior Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya. Abdelatty said Cairo was open to a comprehensive deal involving the release of all hostages at once. A senior Hamas official, Bassem Naim, confirmed the group had accepted the new proposal.

Israeli officials reiterated that their conditions — including the release of all hostages — remained unchanged. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas's acceptance showed the group was "under massive pressure".

'Putin agreed to Nato-style security guarantees'

NEW YORK, AP/PTI: Russian leader Vladimir Putin agreed at his summit with President Donald Trump that the United States and its European allies could extend Ukraine a security guarantee resembling Nato's collective defence mandate as part of a potential deal to end the war, a US official said on Sunday.

Trump envoy Steve Witkoff, who joined the talks Friday at a military base in Alaska, said it was "the first time we had ever heard the Russians agree to that" and described it as "game-changing." "We were able to win the following concession: that the United States could offer Article 5-like protection, which is one of the real reasons why Ukraine wants to be in Nato," Witkoff told CNN's State of the Union.

Although Witkoff gave few details, the development appeared to mark a major shift for Putin and could provide a workaround to his opposition to Ukraine's Nato membership, a step Kyiv has long pursued.

The proposal was expected to feature prominently as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and leading European figures met Trump at the White House on Monday to discuss a settlement.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Activist Greta Thunberg speaks to activists from Extinction Rebellion who are protesting at Equinor's oil refinery in Mongstad, Norway, on Monday. REUTERS

Bolivia's presidential vote heads for unprecedented runoff

▶ Bolivia's presidential vote headed to an unprecedented runoff after a vote Sunday that ended more than two decades of left-wing dominance in the Andean nation but signalled voters' trepidation about a major lurch to the right, AP/PTI reports from La Paz (Bolivia).

A dark horse centrist, Sen. Rodrigo Paz, drew more votes than the right-wing front-runners, although not enough to secure an outright victory, early results showed. Paz, a former mayor who has sought to soften the edges of the opposition's push for tough austerity to rescue Bolivia from economic collapse, will face off against right-wing former President Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, who finished second. Bolivia will hold the second round — its first presidential runoff since its 1982 return to democracy — on October 19. "Always Bolivia, everything for Bolivia," Paz declared to cheering crowds. "This economic model must change." With over 91% of the ballots counted Sunday, Paz received 32.8% of the votes cast. Quiroga secured 26.4%. Candidates needed to surpass 50%, or 40% with a 10-point margin of victory, to avoid a runoff.

Air Canada strike 'illegal'

▶ The Canada Industrial Relations Board declared a strike by 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants illegal and ordered them back on the job after they ignored an earlier order to return to work and submit to arbitration, AP/PTI reports from Toronto.

The strike at Canada's largest airline entered its third day on Monday and is affecting about 130,000 travellers per day during the peak summer travel season. The two sides remain far apart on pay and other issues. Air Canada suspended plans to restart operations on Sunday after the union defied a return-to-work order and said workers would not go back to work.

A partially burnt vineyard remains after wildfires in Fontjoncouse, France, on Monday. About 16,000 hectares of farmland have been destroyed. AFP

Swatch apologises over watch ad

▶ Swiss watchmaker Swatch apologised Monday for an ad campaign that upset consumers in China and elsewhere and said it had "immediately removed all related materials worldwide", AP/PTI reports from Geneva.

In an image for the Swatch Essentials collection, an Asian male model is shown pulling the edges of his eyelids upward and backward with his fingers — a gesture seen as derogatory and racist, Swiss public broadcaster SRF reported. Swatch wrote on Instagram that "we sincerely apologise for any distress or misunderstanding this may have caused." It said it would "treat this matter with the utmost importance." SRF reported that the apology was also posted on the Chinese social network Weibo in Chinese and English.

2 cops killed in US shootout

▶ Two police officers were shot and killed in a northern Utah city and a man was taken into custody, AP/PTI reports from Tremonton (US).

The officers were responding to a domestic disturbance call on Sunday in a neighbourhood in Tremonton. A sheriff's deputy and a police dog who also responded were wounded and were hospitalised in fair condition, police said. After the officers were shot, bystanders persuaded the man to put down his weapon, police said. SWAT teams responded to clear the home and verify that there was no further threat, police said. "Upon arrival, they immediately began taking fire," Police Detective Crystal Beck of neighbouring Brigham City told reporters earlier.

Actor and rapper Will Smith performs on stage during the "Cabaret Vert" festival in Charleville-Mézières, France, on Sunday. AFP

Myanmar to hold first phase of general election on December 28

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: Myanmar's military-appointed election commission announced on Monday that elections will begin December 28, setting a date for polls that critics have denounced as a sham intended to normalise the army's 2021 seizure of power even as armed conflict rages throughout much of the country.

The Union Election Commission said in a statement sent to journalists that the elections will be conducted in phases over several days and that a full schedule will be released soon.

A separate statement from the commission, published Saturday in the state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper, said that all 330 townships in the country have been designated as constituencies for the election.

Nearly 60 parties, including the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, have registered to run, according to the list on the commission's website. It is unclear how polling can take place in many areas that are not under control of the military government but are held instead by pro-democracy resistance fighters or ethnic minority rebels. Much of the country is wracked by civil war.

Several opposition organisations, including armed resistance groups, have said they will seek to derail the election.

Last month, the military government enacted a new electoral law that imposes punishments of up to the death penalty for anyone who opposes or disrupts the elections.

Trump admin revokes over 6,000 student visas

Most are cancelled for breaking the law, says state dept

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

People check their visas before crossing at the San Ysidro crossing port on the US-Mexico border. AFP FILE

The administration of President Donald Trump has revoked more than 6,000 student visas for overstays and violations of US law, including a small number for "support for terrorism," a State Department official said on Monday.

The move, first reported by Fox Digital, comes as the Trump administration pursues a hard-line stance on student visas as part of its wider immigration crackdown, tightening social media vetting and expanding screening. New directives this year ordered US diplomats abroad to be vigilant against applicants deemed hostile to the United States or with a history of political activism.

Around 4,000 visas were cancelled for criminal offences, mainly assault, with other violations including driving under the influence and burglary, the official said.

A further 200 to 300 visas were revoked for terrorism under provisions in the State Department's Foreign Affairs Manual, which cites ineligibility grounds such as "engaging in terrorist activities" and "links to terrorist organisations." The official did not identify which groups the students were alleged to support.

Trump has repeatedly clashed with US universities, accusing them of fostering antisemitism amid large-scale student protests supporting Palestinian rights during the Gaza war. In a dispute with Harvard, he froze federal funding for investigations and threatened to revoke the university's tax-exempt status, prompting some European nations to expand research grants to attract academics and students.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he had personally revoked visas for "hundreds, perhaps thousands" of individuals, including students, over activities he argued conflicted with US foreign policy priorities.

Wang's India visit to work on understandings reached during talks, says China

BEIJING, PTI

China on Monday said Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India was aimed at working with New Delhi to deliver on important understandings reached between the leaders of the two sides and decisions taken during the previous round of border talks.

Wang is on a two-day visit to India from Monday to participate in the 24th round of Special Representatives (SRs) talks on the border issue with NSA Ajit Doval.

Doval travelled to China in December and held the 23rd round of talks with Wang, weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping decided to revive various dialogue mechanisms between the two sides at their meeting in the Russian city of Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in October.

Through Wang's visit, China hopes to work with India to deliver on the important common understandings reached between the leaders, maintain high-level exchanges, enhance political trust, promote practical cooperation, properly handle differences, and promote the sustained, sound and steady development of China-India relations, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

The SR-level talks on the India-China Boundary Question are a high-level channel for the two countries' boundary negotiations, Mao said, commenting on Wang's visit at a media briefing here on Monday.

During the 23rd round of talks in Beijing, the two sides reached several common understandings on delimitation, negotiation, border management mechanism, cross-border exchanges and cooperation, she said.

Since the beginning of this year, the two sides have maintained communication through diplomatic channels and actively advanced the implementation of those outcomes, she said.

Cambridge Dictionary adds 'skibidi', 'tradwife' among 6,000 new words

LONDON, AP/PTI

What the skibidi is happening to the English language? "Skibidi" is one of the slang terms popularised by social media that are among more than 6,000 additions this year to the Cambridge Dictionary.

"Internet culture is changing the English language and the effect is fascinating to observe and capture in the dictionary," said Colin McIntosh, lexical programme manager at Cambridge Dictionary, the world's largest online dictionary.

"Skibidi" is a gibberish term coined by the creator of an animated YouTube series and can mean "cool" or "bad" or be used with no real meaning as a joke.

Other planned additions include "tradwife", a contraction of "traditional wife" referring to a married mother who cooks, cleans and posts on social media, and "delulu," a shortening of the word delusional that means "believing things that are not real or true, usually because you choose to". An increase in remote working since the pandemic has created the new dictionary entry "mouse jiggler," a device or piece of software used to make it seem like you are working when you are not.

Concerns over climate change are behind the addition of "forever chemical," a harmful chemical that remains in the environment for a long time.

Cambridge Dictionary uses the Cambridge English Corpus, a database of more than 2 billion words of written and spoken English, to monitor how new words are used by different people, how often and in what contexts they are used, the company said.

Math, Science and Masala Dosa: Cooking up concepts

SAHANA PRASAD

"You have a cup of warm water in one hand, a cup of lemon juice in the other. You impose one on another, what happens?" I ask, dramatically holding up both hands as if I am holding two cups.

"Lime juice in warm water!" Students talk immediately! Lo and behold, a dull class on the composition of functions suddenly seems interesting! No more blank stares, it's replaced by an amused look, a few smiles, and even the odd chuckle.

Food is universal. It has no barriers of age, culture, or interest levels. That's why it makes a perfect bridge from the abstract to the real. Binomial expansions? Oh, so tough! But visualise building an ice cream sundae, start with a scoop of vanilla, add chocolate sauce, nuts, and sprinkles in different combinations. Each layer and topping combination represents a term in the expansion — more toppings, more terms (and it becomes messy if you mix without order).

Let's face it: today's teachers have a more challenging job than ever. It was only the internet earlier — now you have AI, GPTs, and many more giving tough competition.

So, we tend to blame students- "They're not interested, they're distracted." But give them a real-life example, and most of them will get interested. Some might not; they are the outliers of the class!

Hook them by using their best friend, their phone. Geometry? Use it to explain how their phone's camera works. Physics? Your phone's screen rotates from portrait to landscape because the accelerometer senses changes in speed and direction. Security? Your phone lock code scrambles data so only someone with the correct "key" (your PIN or fingerprint) can unlock it — that's encryption at work.

A challenge for students

Students, if you feel your class is all about the same old theoretical stuff, don't just wait for it to get over. Ask: "Where can this be applied?". Once you show interest, watch how your faculty will come up with examples, many of which you would be using, without giving it a name!

"Why should I learn boring and tough subjects?" you ask. Well, if you want to stay ahead of the crowd and shine through the competition, you must.

Reality is that your interviewer for an internship or job is not going to let you Google for the answer. And when you're in a real workplace, you can't run to a GPT every time a new challenge pops up — especially when you don't even know the right question to ask. Understanding concepts yourself is non-negotiable. What distinguishes you from others, why they should hire you, amongst a large group of graduates, is this. Without core knowledge and understanding, you cannot use any AI tools.

Learning with Analogies

Make learning interesting. Are you a foodie? Use food analogies to make learning less intimidating and far more memorable. Here are a few you can try for yourself:

- **Math (fractions):** Cutting a cake for guests. More guests? Smaller pieces. Instant visual. Statistics(Probability) = Picking a sweet from a mixed box of chocolates — that suspense before you bite is pure math.
- **Biology-Homeostasis (phone temperature regulation)**: Your device slows down or shuts off apps to prevent overheating.
- **Physics (Newton's Laws):** A laddoo sitting still won't move unless pushed. Once rolling, it keeps going until something stops it.
- **Chemistry (chemical reaction):** Charging your phone — energy flows in and changes the state from "dead brick" to "glowing, alive gadget."
- **Economics (opportunity cost):** Choosing to spend your last 5% battery scrolling Instagram instead of checking train timings.

Are you a teacher wondering if this can be implemented in classrooms? Here are a few tips:

- **Strip the concept to its core idea:** What's the simplest way to describe it?
- **Find a sensory parallel:** Where in daily life do people experience this?
- **Act it out:** A little drama never hurts — hold imaginary cups, pass around props, make the moment visual.
- **Vary the conditions:** Reverse steps, add elements, and show how it changes the outcome. Hand over to students: Get them to make their analogies — you'll be surprised at their creativity.

The double win

Using food and other real-life examples is not just about keeping students awake. It's about creating mental "flavour tags" that stick for years.

A student who learned the composition of functions through lemon water will recall it every time they make a summer drink. A class that grasped probability through samosa filling choices will think of math every time they buy snacks.

The truth is that the "boring" class isn't always about the topic. Sometimes, it's about how the topic is served. Simple ingredients can be turned into a delicious dish; a boring or abstract concept can become an interesting one with a good teacher.

So next time you're about to explain something complex, think: "What's my lemon water here?" Because when the senses are involved, attention follows, and learning is delicious and interesting.

(The author is a Bengaluru-based lecturer)

BULLETIN BOARD

Graphic design internship
Paysphere is hiring graphic and branding design interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, and Video Editing can apply by September 12. The stipend is Rs 8,000 - 15,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/e9146a.

Web development internship
Careernest is hiring web development interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of HTML and CSS, JavaScript, Node.js, ReactJS, and MySQL can apply by September 12. The stipend is Rs 20,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/797a6f.

MBA internship
Dinoxo is hiring business development (sales) – MBA interns in Bengaluru (Hybrid). Students with knowledge of Business Analysis, Business Development, Business Research, English Proficiency (Spoken), English Proficiency (Written), MS-Excel, and Sales can apply by September 5. The stipend is Rs 20,000 - 35,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/16fc49.

Life sciences offer good careers

If you have a curious mind and proficiency in science subjects, many alternative careers await you, writes Ali Khwaja

In the early twentieth century, the study of science saw a great demand, overtaking philosophy, languages and law. Science slowly opened the doors for technology—the application of scientific principles in daily life. And then engineering took the world by storm. Towards the end of the twentieth century, Information Technology (IT) emerged and started overshadowing other branches of engineering. With the explosion in technology and IT, many stopped opting for various steady and promising careers that were best-suited to them. Some careers that have been thus ignored offer recession-proof steady progress and good returns, along with job satisfaction. One such area is the pure sciences, particularly life sciences.

There is a vast world linked to animals, environment and nature, which offers perennial and fascinating careers to those who are interested and are capable. The world cannot exist without agriculture and dairy, and the welfare of animals and the environment is crucial to our existence. Also, many reputed and specialised educational institutions offer excellent education in all aspects of life sciences beyond medicine, which many students are not aware of.

Most students interested in biology and related subjects tend to focus only on medicine. Since the seats in the medicine field are very few, many are naturally disappointed due to constraints of NEET ranking and other issues. However, preparing ahead with a plan B saves the hassle of the last-minute scramble to find alternative lucrative life science careers.

Those who had consciously taken admission in reputed science institutions such as the seven Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), National Institutes of Science Education and Research (NISERs), and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have been moving on to promising careers. Those who did not qualify for these institutions took admission in local colleges which offer B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Hons.) with a combination of subjects such as math, physics, biology, chemistry, and related subjects such as microbiology, biochemistry, genetics, etc.

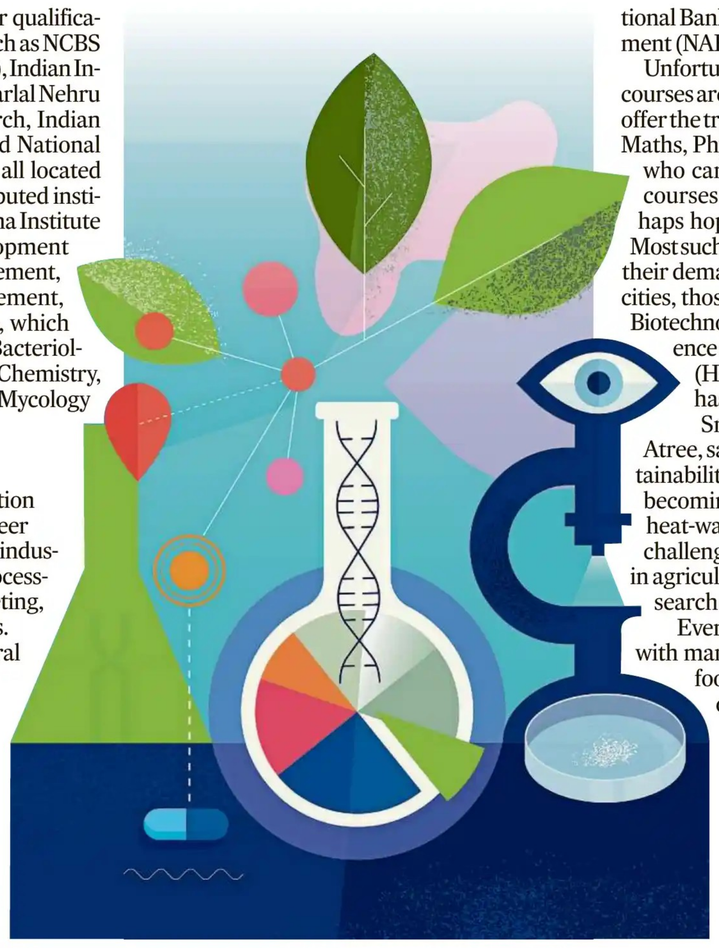
Other four-year professional courses that ensure a promising career include Agriculture (B.Sc. Agri), Agricultural Marketing, Horticulture, or Fisheries. Parallel to these are careers in Animal breeding and behaviour, global warming, wildlife conservation and man-animal conflict, Ecology and environment and Rural Development, which can be pursued at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Most of these are offered by government universities and colleges, and the fees are reasonable. Admission is through entrance exams, which are less competitive than medicine or IT engineering.

For the academically inclined students, there are many specialisations such as agricultural microbiology, entomology (study of insects and their usefulness to humans) or ornithology (study of birds), and here again, many jobs are coming up in private sector companies, research centres and NGOs, both in India and abroad.

For those who wish to acquire higher qualifications, there are excellent institutions such as NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences), Indian Institute of Habitat Studies (IIHS), Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, and National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), all located in Bengaluru. There are many more reputed institutions across the country, such as Mehna Institute of Bio-culture, National Dairy Development Board, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, which offer post-graduation in Agricultural Bacteriology, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Agronomy, Entomology, Horticulture, Mycology and Sugarcane Breeding.

Career options

With greater awareness of proper nutrition and balanced eating, there are good career openings if you wish to get into the food industry – from resourcing, quality check, processing, packaging, preservation and marketing, to exports and trade of perishable goods. National-level institutions include Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) and Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), both in Mysuru, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad (NIN), and various Agricultural Universities. Employment is available in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Asian Development Bank (Recruits Agriculture consultants and Trend analysts), ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research), and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), to name a few.



Unfortunately, in smaller towns, such specialised courses are not available, and the local colleges only offer the traditional three-year B.Sc. in subjects like Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Students who cannot migrate to bigger cities join such courses without any particular objective, perhaps hoping for a government or teaching job. Most such colleges offer very subsidised fees, hence their demand continues to be fairly high. In larger cities, those pursuing B.Sc. degrees are opting for Biotechnology, Forensic Science, or Computer Science as one of the subjects. The four-year B.Sc. (Honours) as recommended under the NEP has hardly gained popularity in Karnataka.

Sneha Shahi, Doctoral researcher with Atree, says: "In a world where food security, sustainability, and environmental conservation are becoming increasingly urgent, and with rising heat-waves, water scarcity, and climate-related challenges at our doorstep, the need for experts in agriculture, animal sciences, and ecological research has never been more evident".

Even the study of insects is an emerging field, with many species being identified as nutritious food. The Entomology Research Institute of Loyola College, Chennai, is doing excellent work in providing microbe-related live organisms to clear drainage systems. The above are only a representative list of the wide and increasing opportunities for meaningful careers in life sciences. If you have a curious mind, a desire to do good for humanity, and proficiency in science subjects, many such careers await you.

The right approach to receiving feedback

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Appraisal time is around the corner, and Rekha has just filled out her self-appraisal form. She thinks she has met all her targets, but she has been filled with a sense of dread ever since she submitted the form. She is dreading the meeting with her manager to discuss the appraisal. She is fretting about what feedback she may receive.

For some, the word "feedback" comes loaded with feelings of discomfort, fear, nervousness, awkwardness, and maybe even terror. However, receiving feedback does not need to be a daunting experience. Feedback, if received constructively, could help Rekha thrive professionally and personally. When feedback is given with the right intentions about behaviours that need to change (rather than as a list of flaws of the person), it can nudge one towards improved performance.

There is a tendency to take feedback personally, but you must overcome this urge and strive to use it as a learning opportunity. Jack Zenger and Joe Folkman, experts in behavioural science and psychometrics, point out in their article "Feedback: The Leadership Conundrum" that, while how the feedback is delivered may be important, the impact of that feedback depends more on how the receiver receives it, emotionally and intellectually.

What could be a barrier to receiving feedback effectively?

Feedback can damage your perception of yourself and be a blow to your ego. It is easier to be a victim, become angry, and avoid feedback because it hurts your ego than to examine your shortcomings.

If you are unsure of your identity and worth, feedback may make you feel threatened. When faced with a "threat", your brain goes into a threat response mode, also known as "fight or flight" which prepares you to fight or flee from the "threat" for your survival. If you perceive feedback as a threat, you miss the opportunity to receive input that can be valuable to your growth.

How should you receive feedback?

When the feedback is positive and as you expected, celebrate it. Celebrate the things that you know you do well and keep doing them!

When it is negative, but as you expected, act on it. Design an action plan, set goals, and request frequent feedback to help you change those behaviours.

When it is positive and unexpected, adopt it and replicate it often. Set goals to help you turn these behaviours into habits and routines.

When it is negative and unexpected, explore it in detail to gain a deeper understanding of it. Understand if it is your blind spot. Understand its impact. Act accordingly to either change yourself or find ways of mitigating its impact.

How can you learn to receive feedback constructively?

- **Be self-reflective.** Become more self-aware, self-accepting, and self-compassionate. Understand your thoughts, emotions, behaviours, desires, values, and beliefs. Accept the person that you are and embrace all the parts of yourself, not just the positive parts. Recognise that you have flaws, as does everyone else in this world, and be compassionate towards yourself. You may need the help of a counsellor to go down this path.
- **Ask for feedback often.** It helps to ask for feedback after projects, presentations, or meetings, especially when starting in a new position. Requesting feedback sets the tone that, going forward, you want to improve your performance.
- **Listen.** Listen to what the feedback-giver is really saying, not what you assume they will say. Concentrate on listening and understanding, rather than on being defensive and focusing on how to respond. Make sure you understand what is being said before responding. Ask questions for clarification, paraphrase and summarise what you have understood. Your self-awareness will help you curb your emotional reactions.
- Be aware of your body language and tone of voice. If you are attentive, it puts you and the feedback-giver at ease. If you look distracted and bored, that sends a negative message.

Be open to new ideas and different opinions. There are multiple ways of doing something, and others may have a different point of view. You may learn something new by listening to their suggestions.

- Reflect before you decide what to do. Assess the feedback and the consequences of using it or ignoring it, and then decide what you would like to do differently because of it.
- Know that your response is your choice. If you disagree with the feedback, consider asking someone else for a second opinion.
- Follow up. Sometimes, your follow-up may involve implementing the suggestions given, at other times, you might want to discuss the feedback or resubmit the revised work.

(The author is a counsellor and wellness coach)

Building preschoolers' STEM skills is child's play

If you're looking for ways to support your child's learning before he or she even enters a classroom, new research from FIU offers an answer that's backed by science and surprisingly simple: puzzles, blocks and spatial words.

Spatial reasoning—the ability to visualise how shapes and objects move or fit together—is one of the strongest predictors of later success in math, science, engineering, and even reading. And the earlier it develops, the better the foundation for future STEM learning.

This is at the centre of the new findings from researchers at the Centre for Children and Families, published in Infant and Child Development. The scientists discovered that children as young as 3 years old use the same mental strategies as adults to solve spatial puzzles. In other words, preschoolers aren't just guessing or copying. They're mentally rotating whole objects in their minds with surprising speed and accuracy. Researchers used eye-tracking technology to observe how children ages 3 to 7 approached a mental rotation task, a task previously used with adults. The majority of kids used what's called a "holistic strategy," mentally rotating the object as a whole rather than breaking it down into parts. Those who used this strategy solved problems twice as fast as those who used a slower, piecemeal approach.

These skills can be supported at home and in the classroom, starting well before the age of 3.

According to researchers, the key is providing early exposure to spatial experiences. That might mean giving children opportunities to build with blocks or LEGO, encouraging them to rotate puzzle pieces to see what fits or letting them play with objects that challenge them to think about size, shape and space. Talking about those activities is just as important. When parents and educators use spatial words like "under," "around," "bigger," "farther", or "corner," they're helping children develop the mental vocabulary to reason and solve problems. Even simple moments become powerful learning opportunities when parents or educators describe spatial relationships out loud.

"When we use spatial words in everyday situations—like talking about how to stack groceries or fit toys into a bin—we're supporting the brain's ability to reason and problem-solve," said Shannon Pruden, senior author and professor of psychology at FIU.

The findings build on Pruden's earlier work showing that language shapes how children think about space, and confirm that the earlier children engage in spatial play and talk, the greater the impact on their success in STEM education.

As families and schools prepare for a new school year, experts say this is the perfect time to rethink how we approach STEM education, starting in early childhood.

The study is part of a growing body of research using eye-tracking to understand how children think, learn and problem-solve in real time. Researchers hope to translate these findings into classroom tools, early learning guidelines and future studies that explore how children switch between different mental strategies and how adults can support that flexibility through play.

- PHYS.ORG

Bengaluru is 4th among top 15 global prime residential markets

It outranked Mumbai & Delhi with a 10.2% price growth

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has seen the highest price growth for prime residential properties and is ranked fourth among the top 15 cities globally. The city has also overtaken Mumbai, and Delhi in the price growth recording a year-on-year growth of 10.2%. Mumbai and Delhi have recorded 8.7%, and 3.9% growth in prices respectively, according to Knight Frank's latest Prime Global Cities Index (PGCI) released on Monday.

Knight Frank studied 46 cities globally for creating this index. Seoul (25.2% price growth), Tokyo (16.3%), and Dubai (15.8%) are ahead of Bengaluru in the ranking, while Mumbai, and Delhi have taken the 6th and 15th position respectively.

Despite a global cooling in prime residential price growth - averaging 2.3% annually compared to 3.5% in Q1 2025 - Indian cities remain resilient, reflecting strong demand, limited prime supply, and sustained wealth creation in urban centres, Knight Frank said.

Brigade Road. DH FILE PHOTO

"Bengaluru's price growth is mainly due to sustained job creation by global capability centres, and startups which led to demand for office market. Further, the office market growth leads to demand for residential properties," Vivek Rathi, National Director-Research, Knight Frank told *DH*.

He said startups have created huge wealth after they unlocked value by listing on capital markets which in turn led to demand for prime residential properties in Bengaluru. Another reason is that the prime properties in Bengaluru are relatively cheaper compared to similar properties in Mumbai and Gurugram. Prime properties in Bengaluru are priced in the range of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per sq feet as against Rs 75,000 per sq feet in Mumbai's prime areas, Rathi said.

In Bengaluru, properties located on Brigade Road, Cubbon Park area, South Delhi and Golf Course Extension in Delhi and Napean Sea Road, Malabar Hill in Mumbai are considered prime residential markets.

Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India, said, "India's prime residential markets have shown remarkable resilience, standing out in a year when global growth momentum has eased. Bengaluru's tech-driven wealth creation, Mumbai's renewed infrastructure-led appeal, and Delhi's steady luxury demand have collectively kept India in the global spotlight. We anticipate that continued economic stability, urban redevelopment, and the appeal of prime assets as long-term wealth stores will support price growth in the months ahead."

JSW, POSCO agree to explore setting up 6 MTPA steel plant

South Korean group has tried to set up steel plant in India twice earlier

BENGALURU, DHNS

JSW Steel has signed a non-binding heads of agreement (HoA) with South Korea's steel giant POSCO Group, to jointly explore setting up of a 6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant in India.

This HoA builds on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both parties in October 2024 and outlines the broad framework for the proposed 50:50 joint venture. The HoA was signed in Mumbai in the presence of Lee Ju-tae, Representative Director and President, POSCO Holdings, and Jayant Acharya, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JSW Steel.

As part of the next steps, JSW and POSCO will undertake a detailed feasibility study to finalise the plant's location, investment terms, resource availability, and other critical factors. Given its natural resource base and logistical advantages, Odisha is among the key locations being considered, JSW Steel said in a statement.

Jayant Acharya said, "This partnership brings together JSW's proven execution capabilities and strong domestic footprint with POSCO's technological leadership in steelmaking. The proposed venture aligns with India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and will help create a globally competitive manufacturing hub to serve both domestic and export markets."

Lee Ju-tae added, "India is central to the future of global steel demand. Our collaboration with JSW is based on mutual trust and a shared long-term vision. This initiative represents our commitment to supporting India's industrial growth while creating long-term value for both organizations."

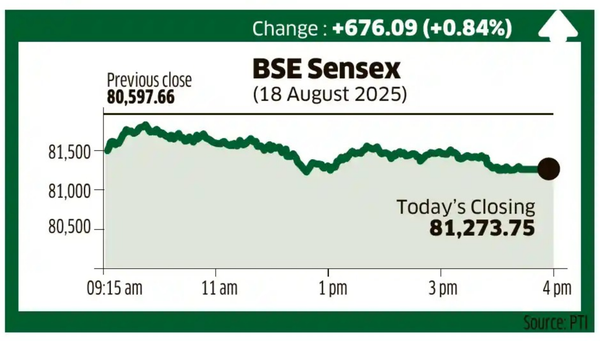
JSW Steel is the flagship business of the US$23 billion JSW Group and India's leading integrated steel producer with a consolidated capacity of 35.7 MTPA, including 1.5 MTPA in the United States. It operates India's largest single-location steel plant at Vijayanagar in Ballari district.

It may be recalled that POSCO had an agreement to set up a steel plant in Odisha, back in 2005, which ran into major protests and regulatory delays, forcing it to abandon the project.

It subsequently tried to set up a plant in Karnataka's Gadag, where too it found itself up against local rebellion. Presently, the company has five steel processing units in the country, but clearly still aspires for a steel producing plant.

GST reform plan sparks rally in stock markets

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Expectation of reduction in GST on a number of goods and services as part of the rate rationalisation plan, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his independence day speech, sparked a rally in the stock markets on Monday with key indices Sensex and Nifty gaining nearly 1%.

The stock market rally was led by auto, metal, realty and consumer durables stocks. Share price of India's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki surged by around 9% to Rs 14075.30. Mahindra & Mahindra rallied 3.54% to Rs 3380.95 while Tata Motors jumped 1.78% to Rs 676.40.

According to sources, GST on small cars is likely to be reduced to 18% from the current 28% plus surcharges. Morgan Stanley said in a note that Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries of the GST rate rationalisation.

"The positive sentiment was driven by GST reform proposals, easing concerns over crude oil prices, and a sovereign rating upgrade, which together lifted investor confidence," said Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President-Research, Religare Broking. Benchmark Sensex of the BSE jumped 0.84% or 676.09 points to close at 81,273.75 points. The Sensex surged to a high of 81,765.77 points in the intra-day. Nifty 50 of the NSE rose 245.65 points or 1% to 24,876.95 points.

Sector-wise, all major indices, barring IT, contributed to the up move. Broader markets also joined the rally, as midcaps and smallcaps advanced between 1.14% and 1.43%.

"The proposed rationalisation of GST is a sentiment booster for the domestic market. Additionally, the recent conclusion of the US and Russia summit, without any escalation in geopolitical tensions, has helped ease investor anxiety," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

"The automobile sector outperformed, emerging as a key beneficiary of the anticipated tax reforms. In H2 FY26, we expect the consumption-led sectors to show some traction on account of demand revival," Nair added.

Apple leases 2.7 lakh sq ft in Embassy Zenith for Rs 6.3 cr a month

BENGALURU, DHNS: iPhone maker Apple has leased nearly 2.7 lakh sq feet of office space in Embassy Zenith in Bengaluru for 10 years with a total rental outlay of over Rs 1,000 crore, according to Propstack, a data analytics company.

The lease has been signed for 10 years, and it is effective from April 2025. Apple will occupy 5th to 13th floors of Embassy Zenith with a monthly rent of about Rs 6.3 crore (Rs 235 per sq ft)

The company also has the option to lease additional space measuring 1.21 lakh sq ft across the ground to fourth floors, the documents showed.

"Apple's 10-year commitment for prime office space in Bengaluru highlights its immense confidence in the Indian market. This investment in talent and operations runs parallel to their manufacturing scale-up for iPhones with companies like Foxconn. Together, these moves solidify India's crucial position at the heart of Apple's global supply chain and innovation efforts," said Raja Seetharaman, co-founder Propstack.

Earlier last year, the company opened its new office at Minsk Square, which could house up to 1,200 employees. The new office has dedicated lab space, areas of collaboration and a place for wellness and its interior features locally-sourced materials.

This 15-floor facility is Apple's latest addition to the company's corporate office footprint in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Gurugram.

An Apple spokesperson had said during the new office opening that the company is thrilled to expand in India.

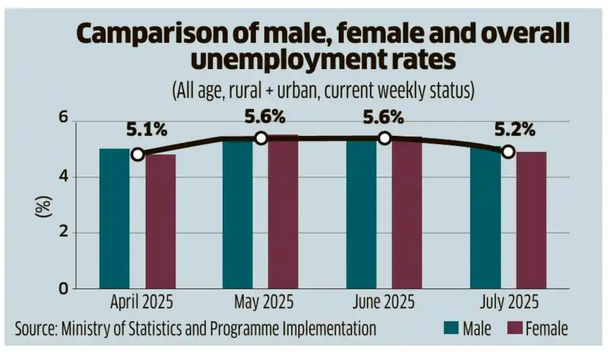
Apple employs nearly 3,000 people in India and has two new retail locations in India- Apple BKC in Mumbai and Apple Saket in Delhi.

Nikhil Kamath invests Rs 137 cr in Goldi Solar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Zerodha's co-founder Nikhil Kamath has invested Rs 137.5 crore in Goldi Solar, the largest solar PV module manufacturing company, and the investment is said to enable the manufacturer to expand its production. Goldi Solar has nearly tripled its Solar PV Module manufacturing capacity from 3 GW to 14.7 GW in the last 12 months, and is also developing its solar cell manufacturing expansions in Surat, Gujarat.

"Renewable energy in India is a massive sector, and there is an equally massive opportunity to build global-scale companies right here on our home ground. It is imperative that we back these companies to accelerate the country's clean energy transition," said Nikhil Kamath.

The investment comes amid rapid growth in domestic solar demand, supported by government targets of 280 GW of solar power by 2030, import duties on foreign modules, and incentives for local manufacturers under the Production Linked Incentive scheme. Founded by Ishverbhai Dholakia in 2011, Goldi Solar is now venturing into large-scale solar cell manufacturing.



Unemployment rate dips to 5.2% in July: Govt survey

NEW DELHI, PTI: The rate of unemployment in the country declined to 5.2% in July from 5.6% in June, a government survey said on Monday.

The unemployment rate (UR) in May was also 5.6%, said the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The latest data collected in current weekly status (CWS) showed that the unemployment rate for persons of all ages during July worked out at 5.2%.

The pace of joblessness among men stayed slightly higher at 5.3% compared to that of women at 5.1%.

In July, the UR in urban areas for all age groups inched up to 7.2% from 7.1% in June. While in rural, the UR for all age group 4.4%, down from 4.9% in June.

Joblessness among the youth, those in the age group of 15-29, decreased to 14.9% in July from 15.3% in June 2025.

However, the rate of unemployment in urban areas for this age group saw a marginal increase to 19 per cent in July from 18.8% in the preceding month.

In rural areas, the rate for the same group (15-29 years) declined to 13% in July from 13.8% in June.

CWS refers to the activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of the last seven days preceding the date of the survey.

The data also showed that the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in CWS among persons of all age groups rose to 41.4% in July 2025 as compared to 41% in June 2025.

In rural areas, the LFPR in CWS of all age groups was 42%, as against 41.5% in the preceding month.

While in urban areas, it stood at 40.1% in July, up from 39.8% in June.

The worker population ratio (WPR), which defines the proportion of those who are employed among the total population, in rural areas among persons aged 15 years and above was 54.4% during July 2025, up from 53.3% in June.

For the same age group, WPR in urban areas was 47% in July.

Flipkart Minustes sees 50% MoM growth as it turns one

BENGALURU, DHNS: Walmart-backed Flipkart's quick commerce arm, Minutes, which marked its first anniversary on Monday, has registered 50% month-on-month value growth. It is now operational in 19 cities and over 2,900 pincodes, attracting more than 50 million visitors in its first year. As it enters its second year of operations, the focus will be on strengthening its technology and expanding into new cities that are witnessing increased demand for quick commerce.

It has also generated over 1 lakh jobs across its delivery and micro fulfilment store operations to meet the platform's growing consumer demand.

Flipkart Minutes operates across Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, including Ahmedabad, Ambala, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata, Kanpur and Lucknow, among others. The quick commerce platform said it has witnessed high customer retention with nearly 60% users placing repeat orders within 14 days.

Minutes has seen strong traction among Gen Z, working professionals, and urban households, with non-metro cities like Ambala, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, and Patna emerging as key drivers of demand. It currently offers curated products across 900 categories, and is seeing strong traction in the mobiles category, with nearly 5 lakh units sold in the past year.

Close to 20 lakh units of consumer electronics were delivered within the first year of operations, Flipkart Minutes said on Monday.

Over the last two years, ecommerce companies have started focusing on quick deliveries by opening more dark stores, which will help in faster delivery. Flipkart's rival Amazon too recently entered the quick commerce race with 'Now'.

Amazon lines up 1.5 lakh jobs for the festive season

BENGALURU, DHNS: With the festive season around the corner, Amazon India announced on Monday that it has created over 1,50,000 seasonal work opportunities across its network of fulfilment centres (FCs), sorting centres, and last-mile delivery stations.

During the festive season, ecommerce companies announce their festive sales, and this in turn creates both direct and indirect jobs for gig workers. Amazon said that work opportunities have been created in over 400 cities across the country, including cities such as Raipur, Jalandhar, Jodhpur, Ranchi and Jalgaon, among others.

"This festive season, we continue to be focused on providing fast and reliable deliveries to customers in every serviceable pin code across India. For this, we've strengthened our fulfilment and logistics network with over 1.5 lakh additional people to help us manage increased customer demand efficiently. Many of these people continue their journey with Amazon beyond the festive period, with a significant number returning to work with us year after year," said Abhinav Singh, VP - Operations, India & Australia, Amazon.

He added, "Throughout our operations, we prioritise the safety and well-being of all associates—whether they're working in our buildings or delivering packages to customers."

Manisha Singh, an associate who has recently joined Amazon and is working at one of its FCs in Bengaluru, said the company's focus on safety measures gives them confidence while working in the operations network.

Amazon India has a nationwide fulfilment and delivery network that is helping more than 1.6 million sellers serve customers across the country, the company said in a release.

It has FCs spread across 15 states, offering over 43 million cubic feet of storage space for seller inventory; sortation centres in 19 states; along with a network of close to 2,000 Amazon-operated and partner delivery stations.

Amazon also said that it has created opportunities for thousands of women associates as well as over 2000 PWDs (differently abled) in its network.

Recently, NLB Services stated that the festival season is expected to generate up to 2 lakh jobs across key sectors, including retail, e-commerce, logistics, and consumer services. Adecco India, a HR solutions provider in India, also projected a similar number of job opportunities during this festive season.

Dominance of a few UPI apps may stifle fintech innovation: SBI Research

NEW DELHI, DHN:S Dominance of a few foreign-owned apps like PhonePe and Google Pay in the digital payments system is likely to stifle India centric fintech innovation going forward, SBI Research said on Monday.

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem is currently dominated by a handful of third-party app providers (TPAPs), with PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm leading both in transaction volume and value.

"The need for a Desi Counter Intuitive App cannot be over-emphasised as we move towards leveraging data," SBI Research said in a note.

There has been a rapid growth in digital transactions in India in the recent years led by UPI. The digital transaction in the economy is now much higher than the cash in circulation. During April-July 2025 period, the monthly average UPI transactions stood at Rs 24,554,00 crore, while cash in circulation stood at Rs 19,300 crore.

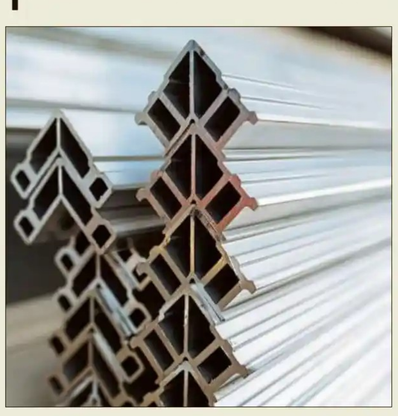
BACKDOOR ENTRY

Cheap Chinese imports hurts aluminium extrusion industry

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Aluminium extrusions manufacturers have demanded the government to relook at the free trade agreement (FTA) with Asean and United Arab Emirates (UAE). According to the domestic aluminium extrusions makers, China is dumping its finished aluminium goods in the Indian market through Vietnam and Malaysia using India's FTA at zero duty. At the same time, Indian manufacturers are forced to pay 8.25% duty to the government which makes them uncompetitive against China in the global markets.

"Indian manufacturers are paying 7.5% duty on raw materials and 10% surcharge totaling 8.25% as against duty exemption offered by the government in China. This makes our products expensive when compared to Chinese finished goods thereby causing loss of market for Indian producers. We have urged the government to re-look at the FTA with Asean and UAE so that China stops dumping its products in the Indian market," Ankur Aggarwal, general secretary, Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) told *DH*.



Chinese manufacturers are sending their products to Vietnam, repackaging them there and exporting them to India at zero duty, he said.

There is a need to put in place safeguards in free trade agreements with Far East countries and other nations to revive domestic units.

He also urged the government to reduce duty on raw materials so that Indian producers get a level playing field in the international markets and compete with China, ALEMAI President Jitendra Chopra said.

India's aluminium extrusion market stood at $3.51 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach $4.61 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 4.5%. While north India remains the dominant market, the southern region, led by Karnataka, is now recognised as a major growth corridor.

However, the industry players remain concerned about global headwinds, including volatility in raw material prices, high energy costs, and the recently announced 50% tariff on aluminium products from India by the US administration could impact export competitiveness, Chopra said.

"The biggest challenge is the under-utilisation of domestic manufacturing capacity due to cheap imports.

The total installed aluminium extrusion capacity in India is 3.5 million tonnes per annum, but the utilisation is only around 2 million tonnes, with the remaining 1.5 million tonnes imported.

There is a need to put in place safeguards in FTAs with Far East countries and other nations to revive domestic units," Chopra said.

Kingston wins main event

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Kingston, from the stables of Satheesh and ridden by Abhya Singh, won the upper division of the Independence Cup, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday.

1. Red Rum Plate - 1400M: Certanity (S Pathy) Yash Narredu 1; Tootsie Darling (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Lake Michigan (BR Kumar) 3; Gusto's Baby (Afroz Khan) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 3/4, 6-1/4L. T: 1:28.53. TB: Laxman Singh. Fav: Certanity.

2. Devarkonda Cup (Div II) -1100M: Her Ladyship (S Pathy) Kuldeep Singh 1; Star Medal (Abhay Singh) 2; Zuza (Ashhad Asbar) 3; Bold Beauty (Sai Kumar) 4; Wb: 2, 3/4, 2-1/2L. T: 1:09.56. TB: D Netto. Fav: Zuza.

3. Independence Cup (Div II) - 1200M: She Can (Krishna Kanniah) Shamaz Shareef 1; Warwick (Ajeeth Kumar) 2; Sangreal (Yash Narredu) 3; Blissful (Nakhat Singh) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, Nk, 1/2L. T: 1:15.31. TB: Nilesh Rawal. Fav: Warwick.

4. Fair Haven Plate - 1400M: Brilliant Lad (Teja Gollapudi) Yash Narredu 1; Walking Thunder (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Star Forever (Sai Kumar) 3; Shah Of Iran (B Nikhil) 4; Wb: 3/4, 2, 6-3/4L. T: 1:28.36. TB: Laxman Singh. Fav: Brilliant Lad.

5. Devarkonda Cup (Div I) - 1100M: Only The Brave (C Ashok) Ajay Kumar 1; Dontblockmyway (Akshay Kumar) 2; Double Bubble (Kuldeep Singh) 3; Mexican Wave (RS Jodha) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, Nk, 1L. T: 1:09.04. TB: SSF Hassan. Fav: Dontblockmyway.

6. Ascot Plate - 1200M: D Minchu (Rakesh Reddy) Ajeeth Kumar 1; Calista Girl (Gaurav Singh) 2; Calistoga (Akshay Kumar) 3; Ragnarok (Santosh Raj) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 3/4L, Hd. T: 1:14.15. TB: Ananth Vatsalya. Fav: Espionage.

7. Independence Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Kingston (AC Muthiah) Abhay Singh 1; Romantic Grey (Afroz Khan) 2; NRI Dheera (Varun) 3; Mix The Magic (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Wb: 3/4, 2-1/2, 3/4. T: 1:15.81. TB: Satheesh. Fav: Rival.

8. Karimnagar Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Glimmer Of Hope (Leeladhar Sharma) Kuldeep Singh 1; Lego (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Hoping Star (Mohit Singh) 3; Lights On (RS Jodha) 4; Wb: Hd, 2-1/2L, Nk. T: 1:16.79. TB: Ravinder Singh. Fav: Shooting Star.

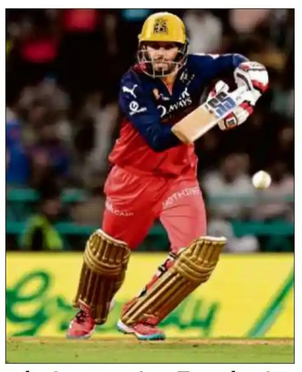
Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 14w; 11, 10, 26p; Fc: Rs 37; Q: Rs 26; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 151 & 69; Ex: Rs 353 & 149.
II race: Rs 141w; Rs 22, 15, 10p; Fc: Rs 2,338; Q: Rs 661; Shp: Rs 44; Thp: Rs 140; Tri: Rs 2,200 & 754; Ex: Rs 68,812 (c/o).
III race: Rs 104w; 21, 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 281; Q: Rs 141; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 423 & 217; Ex: Rs 20,796.
IV race: Rs 18w; 12, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 28 ; Q: Rs 15; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 18; Tri: Rs 36 & 26; Ex: Rs 174 & 195.
V race: Rs 72w; 17, 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 306; Q: Rs 141; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 509 & 241; Ex: Rs 7,410 & 2,823.
VI race: Rs 125w; 24, 23, 15p; Fc: Rs 1,434; Q: Rs 835; Shp: Rs 74; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 42,934 & 3,680; Ex: Rs 80,896 (c/o).
VII race: Rs 93w; 21, 14, 20p; Fc: Rs 357; Q: Rs 240; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 2,221 & 1,079; Ex: Rs 13,221 & 5,621.
VIII race: Rs 653w; 82, 12, 39p; Fc: Rs 2,789; Q: Rs 1,047; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 44,914 (c/o) & 19,249; Ex: Rs 76,557 (c/o).
Jackpot: Rs 2,10,214 (2). **Runner-up:** Rs 10,010 (18). **I treble:** Rs 2,859 (2). **II treble:** Rs 5,475 (1). **III treble:** Rs 14,364 (1).

CRICKET ASIA CUP TEAM SELECTION

Plenty to ponder for selectors

Gill's spot, second spinning all-rounder and finisher will be up for discussion

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS



Test skipper Shubman Gill's (left) place in the squad will come in for deep deliberation when the selectors meet on Tuesday to pick the squad for the Asia Cup, a T20 tournament this time. There's a strong possibility of Washington Sundar (top right) and Jitesh Sharma being picked for the continental event. PTI

The wise men of Indian cricket will have some serious deliberations to do when they sit down on Tuesday to pick the squad for next month's Asia Cup that will give an indication of the side the management is grooming for the all-important T20 World Cup early next year.

While most members pick themselves for the continental bash in the United Arab Emirates following a revamp after a triumphant T20 World Cup in the Americas last June, the major point of discussion would be -- Should Test stars Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, absolutely brilliant T20 players also, be slotted in that would somewhat break a settled line-up?

Once they are done with that, Ajit Agarkar and Co will have long deliberations as they try to figure out who will don the finisher's role and whether to pick an extra spinning all-rounder or a third specialist seamer in the squad that's been capped at 15 members.

Firstly, the spinners, who will likely play the key role considering the pitch conditions in the UAE that are normally on the slower side. Vice-captain Axar Patel, whose batting has also come a long way over the last couple of years, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav appear favourites not just to make the cut to the squad but also to the playing XI. All three of them are different in nature and bring a unique skill-set to the table.

The point of discussion here would be whether to pick an extra spinning all-rounder in Washington Sundar or pick a third seamer as back-up for the injury-prone Jasprit Bumrah. Not only is Sundar a fine T20 bowler with the ability to roll his arm over in the Power Play, he's a potent batter just like senior pro Axar. And like Axar, he can be used as a floater anywhere in the batting order and given head coach Gautam Gambhir's fondness for him, there's a good chance he could make the cut.

Much of the middle order looks settled with Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya being the automatic choices. So the role of the finisher, who will be the first-choice wicketkeeper, will come for intense discussion after Rinku Singh's disastrous outing (39 runs, 3 innings) in the series against England earlier this year.

In all likelihood it appears as if the selectors may opt for Jitesh Sharma in that role, ahead of Dhruv Jurel. Jitesh had a fantastic season with the triumphant Royal Challengers Bengaluru, playing some game-changing knocks that drew a lot of praise.

The said, Gambhir generally prefers to offer a long rope to the players he believes in, so Rinku may still get a look-in, possibly ahead of Shivam Dube.

There's also a buzz that Shreyas Iyer may come back to the T20 fold. Iyer, was in sparkling form for Punjab Kings in this year's IPL, is a brilliant batter against spinners and possesses big-match temperament too. His experience could be vital for a largely young side.

On the fast bowling lane, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh should secure their spots but there will be a tough battle between Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana for the third pacers' slot. Prasidh won the Purple Cap this season with 25 scalps but what could go against him is the short turnaround time between the Asia Cup -- scheduled to end on September 28 – and the two-match home Test series against West Indies that starts on October 2. Prasidh may share the new ball with Mohammed Siraj, so in order to keep him fresh, the selectors may go with Rana.

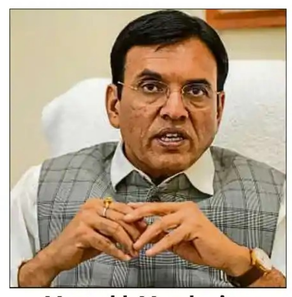
Plenty to ponder for Agarkar and Co.

Likely 15: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh/ Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel (vc), Varun Chakaravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar/ Ravi Bishnoi, Jitesh Sharma (wk)/ Dhruv Jurel (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana/ Prasidh Krishna.

Sports bill lowers eligibility rule for top jobs in NSFs

Ministry wants to encourage younger administrators

NEW DELHI, PTI



Mansukh Mandaviya

Aspirants for the top positions in national federations will be required to serve just one term in the Executive Committee, instead of the "overly restrictive" eligibility rule of two terms prescribed earlier, as the Sports Ministry wants to encourage "younger administrators and athlete-leaders".

The National Sports Governance Bill, which was passed by the Parliament last week and now awaits the presidential assent to formally become an act, lays down the criteria for seeking election to the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer in the National Sports Federations (NSFs).

It originally mandated two terms in the Executive Committee for anyone aspiring for the top three posts. This provision has been relaxed through an amendment, making it a minimum of one term after consultations with stakeholders.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in an interview to PTI after the passing of the amended bill last week, said the change creates the balance needed to ensure a bigger competitive field of administrators.

"The decision to reduce the minimum prior term requirement for contesting federation elections was guided by the principle of broadening the pool of eligible and capable candidates, while still ensuring they have sufficient experience to serve effectively," he reasoned.

"In consultations, several stakeholders, including athlete representatives and smaller federations, highlighted that overly restrictive eligibility rules tended to entrench incumbents and limit opportunities for fresh leadership," Mandaviya pointed out.

The relaxation ensures that current Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha and All India Football Federation chief Kalyan Chaubey will be able to seek a re-election if they decide. Both have served one term in the Executive Committees of their respective bodies.

The revised provision also makes room for presidents, secretaries and treasurers in state bodies to stake claim for leadership roles in the NSFs, widening the scope of competition at election time.

The minister said reducing the minimum term requirement in the EC would ensure that a wider talent base is available without compromising on the principles of continuity and experience.

IN BRIEF

Sujata brace powers Roots

▸ Sujata Roy scored a brace as Roots FC trounced Pink Panthers 3-0 in the Karnataka Women's League game at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday, reports DHNS.

Results: BFC: 3 (Palak 8th, Ruthu Sree Nandan 9th, 23rd) bt United FC Kodagu: 0; Misaka United FC: 1 (Esther Ting Joukim 80th) drew with Pass FC: 1 (Jyoti 20th); Roots FC: 3 (Oinam Babita Devi 35th, Sujata Roy 38th, 54th) bt Pink Panthers FC: 0.

Thompson out of Lausanne DL

▸ Kishane Thompson, the fastest man in the 100m this year and a favourite for next month's world championships, will miss the Diamond League meet in Lausanne, reports AFP from Paris.

"Kishane Thompson will not compete in the men's 100m," organisers said in a statement on Monday.

The Jamaican sprinter has been suffering from "shin discomfort" since beating Olympic champion Noah Lyles last weekend in Poland.

FIFA hit with $76M claim

▸ Lawyers for former France international Lassana Diarra said on Monday he is claiming 65 million euros ($76 million) from FIFA and the Belgian football federation after a landmark legal win about transfer rules, reports AP.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

La Liga: Real Madrid vs Osasuna **(12:30 am, Wednesday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET

Maharaja Trophy: Gulbarga Mystics vs Shivamogga Lions **(3:15 pm)**, Mangaluru Dragons vs Hubli Tigers **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

SC to hear plea on AIFF-FSDL row

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on August 22 a matter involving a row between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and FSDL over the fate of 11 Indian Super League (ISL) clubs due to the non-renewal of their contracts with the national federation and the tournament's organisers.

The 11 ISL clubs have warned the AIFF that they "face the real possibility of shutting down entirely" if the ongoing impasse regarding the future of the top-tier domestic competition is not resolved soon.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar agreed to hear the plea after amicus curiae and senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan submitted that during the tenure of the contract, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) has to honour it by conducting the ISL.

"If it does not, the AIFF should be directed to terminate the contract and float a tender. Otherwise the players suffer and after repeated non-payment, we can be sanctioned by the FIFA," Sankaranarayanan said.

The bench said it would hear the matter on Friday.

The clubs wrote a letter to AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey last week, saying the crisis arising out of the non-renewal of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the national federation and the ISL organisers, FSDL, has "paralysed professional football in India".

Bangla likely to replace Pak

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bangladesh is likely to replace Pakistan in the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 29 if the latter fails to confirm participation in the next couple of days, a top Hockey India official told PTI on Monday.

The Indian government had already said that it will provide visas to the Pakistani players for Asia Cup, but the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has refused to travel.

Espanyol shock Atletico

MADRID, AFP

Pere Milla

Espanyol staged a late comeback to grab a shock 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid on Sunday as Diego Simeone's men made a disappointing start to their La Liga campaign.

Pere Milla scored a late winner as Atletico stumbled to defeat in Barcelona despite leading through Julian Alvarez's brilliant goal.

Atletico have been busy in the transfer market, with notable arrivals including Alex Baena, David Hancko, Johnny Cardoso and Giacomo Raspadori, in a bid to challenge Barcelona and Real Madrid for the title.

Angel Correa, Rodrigo De Paul and Cesar Azpilicueta have all departed as part of the rebuild after Simeone's team finished third, 12 points behind champions Barca last term.

Barcelona kicked off their title defence with a 3-0 win at Mallorca on Saturday, while Real Madrid host Osasuna on Tuesday.

Results: Espanyol: 2 (Rubio 73rd, Milla 84th) bt Atletico Madrid: 1 (Alvarez 37th); Celta Vigo: 0 lt to Getafe: 2 (Liso 47th, Uche 72nd); Athletic Bilbao: 3 (N Williams 36th pen, Sannadi 43rd, Navarro 81st) bt Sevilla: 2 (Lukebakio 60th, Agoume 72nd).

Parantap, Shikhar power Warriors

MYSURU, DHNS

Yashovardhan Parantap

Defending champions Mysore Warriors were back to winning ways with a 39-run victory over the Bengaluru Blasters at the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20, being played at the SNRD Ground here.

After Yashovardhan Parantap (39 off 21) made a vital contribution to bring the Warriors to 136/7, the combination of youth and experience in Shikhar Shetty and K Gowtham sliced through the Blasters batting to hold them to 97/9.

The Blasters' chase had a poor start with Chethan LR, Mayank Agarawal and Bhuvan Raju departing in quick succession.

In the second game of the day, Smaran Ravichandran's 52, along with Prajwal's 37, helped Gulbarga Mystics score a four-wicket win over Hubli Tigers.

Chasing 159 runs, the Gulbarga Mystics crossed the line with two balls remaining.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 136/7 in 20 overs (Yashovardhan Parantap 39; Vidyadhar Patil 2-32, Mohsin Khan 2-10) bt Bengaluru Blasters: 97/9 in 16 overs (Madhav Prakash Bajaj 34; Shikhar Shetty 3-5, Krishnappa Gowtham 2-11).
Result: Mysore Warriors won by 39 runs.
Hubli Tigers: 158/8 in 20 overs (Krishnan Shrijith 52, Shivakumar Rakshith 36; Shashi Kumar K 2-19, Lavish Kaushal 2-15) lt to Gulbarga Mystics: 159/6 in 19.4 overs (Smaran Ravichandran 52, Prajwal 37, Bangalore Mohith 26 n.o.; KC Cariappa 2-28, Yash Raj Punja 2-33).
Result: Gulbarga Mystics won by 4 wkts.

Bagan refuse to release players for Natl camp

KOLKATA, PTI: Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan on Monday bluntly refused to release their players for the ongoing national camp, stressing that it is "not mandatory" outside a FIFA window and accusing the All India Football Federation of "negligence" over player welfare.

The senior India squad began its preparatory camp in Bengaluru on August 15 ahead of next month's CAFA Nations Cup, but 13 players, including seven from Mohun Bagan, have skipped the camp. Initially, their absence was attributed to the club's Durand Cup commitments. But even after the Mariners crashed out with a 1-2 derby defeat to East Bengal in the quarterfinals here on Sunday, the club has stood firm, citing their upcoming AFC commitments.

India's air pistol side shoots a silver

SHYMKENT, PTI: Indian shooters' quest to better their medal tally at the Asian Championships (rifle/pistol/shotgun) began with the men clinching the 10m air pistol team silver, while Faridabad marksman Anmol Jain missed out on an individual medal in the event, finishing sixth here on Monday.

The men's team, comprising Anmol (580), Aditya Malra (579) and Asian Games gold medallist Saurabh Chaudhary (576) aggregated a score of 1,735 to finish behind China, who took the gold by amassing 1,744 points.

Iran took the bronze, totalling 1,733 points.

In the individual men's 10m air pistol section, Anmol, who progressed into the final in seventh place with a qualification score of 580, ended up sixth in the medal round aggregating 155.1 points.

Hu Kai of China took the gold with a fine score of 241.6, while South Korea's Hong Suhyeon and Iran's Amir Joharikhou bagged the silver and bronze with scores of 239.0 and 216.8 respectively.

The other two Indian shooters, Aditya (579) and Chaudhary (576) finished 13th and 21st respectively after the qualification round and missed the finals.

MANDYA DIST. CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,
Product Dairy, Gejjalagere-571428, Mandya Dist.
E-Mail: manmultransport@gmail.com Tele: 08232 – 274571/257
IFT NO: MMU/PDG/ /TPT/E-Procurement/56/2025-2026 Date: 16.08.2025
RE- TENDER NOTIFICATION : KMF/2025-26/SE3785, SE3786, SE3787
Mandya Dist. Co- Operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd., invites E-Tenders for Transportation of Milk through Insulated Road Milk Tankers between the District milk Unions and to neighbouring states for the period 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, EMD amount Rs. **25,000/-** per tender.
Tenderer can download documents from **16.08.2025** to **30.08.2025,** Last date of submission of tender: **30.08.2025** at **17.00 hrs**, Date of opening of Technical tender: **01.09.2025** after **11.30 hrs** & Commercial Bid opening will be intimated. Interested Tenderer's may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact helpline No:**080-46010000/68948777** e-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**
Note: Tender Notification No: **KMF/2025-26/SE3731** Published on **17.07.2025** has been cancelled due to technical/administrative reasons.
Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(QA/QC-East),
Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building,
BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02
No.: EE(QA/QC)/East/TEND/09/25-26 Date: 18.08.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal) (Call-5)
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Quality Assurance / Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms those **who have done similar type of work** for **Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for** the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer QA/QC-East.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Construction of Nursery and Primary School at Austin Town. (Call-5). **Estimate Cost of Main Work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 225.00, **EMD amount in Rs.:** 4,700/-.

Time Schedule / Calendar of events: (1) Tender document may be downloaded through KPP portal from: **20.08.2025. (2)** Pre-bid meeting: **25.08.2025** at **11:30 a.m.** Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), R.no. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. **(3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **30.08.2025** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **01.09.2025** at **10:30 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC-East), BBMP

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
1. KMCRI/SUP(5)/**Surgical Oncology**/Tender-01/144/2025-26 Date:18-08-2025
2. KMCRI/SUP(5)/**Surgical Oncology**/Tender-01/147/2025-26 Date:18-08-2025
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. & ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ **Surgical Oncology** ವಿಭಾಗದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

KOF Since: 1984
Karnataka Co-Operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd.
No.11, Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Cross Road,
Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 080-25550268
E-mail: purchase@kof.coop, qc@kof.coop
No. KOF:PACK-MTRL/2025-26/706 Date : 18.08.2025
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Managing Director, KCOGF Ltd., Bengaluru for **Supply of Various Packing Materials & for Supply of Digital Tinto Meter.** Tenders are to be applied through KPP-portal only.
The tender schedule and details of the specifications can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **18.08.2025.** Any changes or corrigendum may be viewed through KPP portal.
Sd/-
Managing Director

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division, Hebburu.Tumkur Dist.
Ph: 0816-2957008, E-mail eehcidhebbur@gmail.com
Karnataka Public Procurement Short term Tender Notification No. 03/2025-26 Dated: 16.08.2025
On behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division, Hebburu, invites Short term tender on Item rate basis from eligible contractors for 05 Works. Starting date for submission of bids is Dt:20.08.2025 and Last date for submission of bids is Dt:03.09.2025. Further details can be obtained from this office and through the internet at the website address **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Executive engineer,
HCI Division,CNNL,
Hebburu.

Ashwath shines in Super CC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ashwath Krishnamurty fell just six runs short of a century but his punchy knock powered Super Cricket Club to a 125-run win over Coles Cricket Club in the KSCA Group I - I, II and III Division under-19 inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Super Cricket Club: 283 all out in 49.1 overs (Ashith Kiran Babu 30, Ekansh Roul 57, Javaji Kushal 26, Ashwath Krishnamurty 94; Saksham Agrawal 4-67, Milan Dhami 2-59, Harihara Ganesh Ramani 2-30) bt Coles Cricket Club: 158 all out in 41.2 overs (Milan Dhami 42; Krishna 2-42, Rishab Subherwal 2-31, Raunak 2-8).
Cambridge Cricket Club: 215 all out in 45 overs (Krishav Somasundar 54, Nitin Reddy N 59; Samith Balaji S 2-34, Cherith U 2-26, Daivik S 3-48) bt The Bangalore Cricketers: 117 all out in 35 overs (Pratyush Chauhan 29; Nitin Reddy N 3-30, Krishav Somasundar 2-19, Likhith B 2-33, Syed Ghouse 2-2).
Minerva Cricket Club: 133 all out in 30.2 overs (Mohnish A Bharadwaj 30, Praneel GM 49; Suresh Kumar Mohan 3-30, Rithvik Patil 2-26, Ishaan Nayak 3-7) lt to Whirlwind Cricketers: 134/8 in 35.3 overs (Ishaan Nayak 34; Praneel GM 2-26, Shivaprasad S 3-40, Hardik P 2-17).
Bangalore United Cricket Club (1): 288/8 in 50 overs (Adhrit Rao 89, Raza Mohamood 50, Pulkit Tiwari 80; Nirvann Masand 2-23, Yuvaan V Kempaiah 2-46) bt Friends Cricket Club: 164 all out in 48.2 overs (R Rohith Reddy 31, Advik Rastogi 32; Vaibhav Sharma 2-17, Aryansh Singh 2-27, Aryan K P 3-28).
Young Pioneer Cricket Club (U-19): 100/7 in 21 overs (Aadrith 2-6) lt to Bharath Cricket Club: 102/5 in 16.3 overs (Akash G Kulkarni 27). Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield, later match was revised to 21 overs per side.
Wilson Garden Cricket Club: 91 all out in 25.1 overs (Vakula Chandra G 25; Akhil S Bhakta 2-20, Sidhanth Sunil 2-10, Punith Lakshman Kumar 2-30) lt to Jawahar Sports Club (1): 95 for no loss in 18.5 overs (Sameer Deepak Godhi 34 n.o., Rudra Singh 52 n.o.).
Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 101/8 in 23 overs (Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 31; Kushmith DB 4-19) lt to Herons Cricket Club: 102/2 in 16.2 overs (Pruthvi Raj R 53 n.o., Emon Bhanj 26 n.o.). Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield, later match was revised to 23 overs per side.
Bangalore Occasionals: 157 all out in 31.4 overs (Kushal Keshav AB 44, Barath C 54; Chahal Chandra C 3-16, Udgeet S Nandan 3-12) lt to Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur: 160/8 in 34 overs (Kutam Charan Ram 48, Vajra S 27, Karan Sharma 28; Chayanveer Sharma 2-23, Farhan Farooq 2-13).

Sheena flunks dope test

Double gold medallist in Bengaluru meets suspended by NADA

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sheena Varkey. AFI

Kerala triple jumper Sheena Nellckal Varkey, who won two gold medals in two separate events in Bengaluru this year, has failed a dope test and was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) last week.

A senior Athletics Federation of India (AFI) official, on condition of anonymity, confirmed to *DH* the suspension of the 32-year-old athlete. Further official details, including the banned substance found in her sample, are yet to be disclosed by NADA.

Apart from the AFI official, two sources close to the athlete also confirmed the development, revealing the 2017 Asian Championships bronze medallist was barred from training at the National Centre of Excellence in Thiruvananthapuram.

While it has been ascertained that Varkey's urine sample returned positive from an out-of-competition test in the first week of June, the quantum of her suspension is yet to be made public.

"Yes, Sheena was suspended, but further details are not known to me," said the AFI official. "She wasn't part of any national camp, as we don't have any ongoing camp for jumpers. Only the 400m camp is active in Trivandrum."

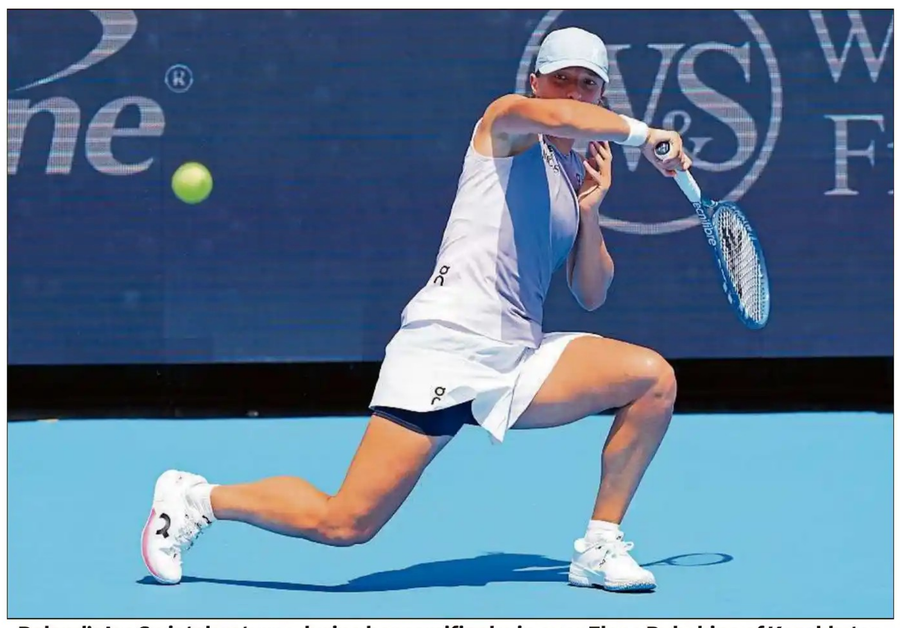
While 400m is the only AFI national camp being hosted at the venue, Varkey was training there with other local jumpers, including established long jumper Nayana James, as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre is conveniently located for them.

As per World Anti-Doping rules, the 2018 Asian Indoor Championships silver medallist can either accept the sanctions of Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) or file an appeal before the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel (ADAP).

Sheena competed in four domestic competitions this season, including a gold at her last, the Indian Open Athletics Meet, in Bengaluru, with a 13.05m jump last June. She also won another gold in Bengaluru last March as she recorded a 13.04m (tailwind of 2.1m) during the Indian Open Jumps Competition at the Anju Bobby High Performance Centre in Kengeri.

Her season best (13.25m) came at the Federation Cup in Kochi last April, confirming a bronze medal. She also won a silver medal at the National Games in Dehradun with a jump of 13.19m.

TENNIS CINCINNATI OPEN


Poland's Iga Swiatek returns during her semifinal win over Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the Cincinnati Open on Sunday. AFP

Swiatek sizzles in Cincy

CINCINNATI, AFP

Iga Swiatek reached the final of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open for the first time on Sunday, surging past Elena Rybakina 7-5, 6-3 to book a title clash with Jasmine Paolini.

The six-time Grand Slam champion earned a Monday evening final against an opponent with nothing to lose after Paolini managed to "forget" a patch of bad form to claim a 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3 win over Russian Veronika Kudermetova.

The 29-year-old, who was a two-time Grand Slam finalist in 2024, will bid for the fourth title of her career when she faces Swiatek, who is set to compete in her 13th final at the 1000 level as she closes in on a return to world number two.

Swiatek, the reigning Wimbledon champion, recovered an early break in the opening set and powered away to beat 2022 All England winner Rybakina -- who had swept past world number one and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinals.

The former world No. 1 from Poland now ranked third, had twice stalled at the semifinal stage at the pre-US Open event, but booked her title chance on her third opportunity.

"It was a great match, and at the beginning, I was even surprised that I'm able to keep up with the pace, because we played so fast," Swiatek said.

"It's impossible to play such a good level throughout the whole match."

Swiatek recovered from 3-5 down in the opening set, sweeping the last four games.

She jumped to a 4-1 lead in the second, sandwiching a pair of love service games around a break of Rybakina's serve.

But Kazakhstan's Rybakina made her work for it, fending off three break points in the sixth game and saving a pair of match points in the eighth before Swiatek closed it out a game later.

Swiatek has beaten Paolini in all five of their prior meetings with the Italian winning just one set.

Alcaraz-R'canu paired

Jannik Sinner has a new partner for the US Open mixed doubles tournament, where Emma Raducanu and Carlos Alcaraz will face the No. 1-seeded team in the first round.

The remainder of the 16-team field was completed on Sunday and the draw was conducted ahead of the two-day event that begins Tuesday and pays $1 million to the winning team.

The top-ranked Sinner will now play with 10-time women's doubles major champion Katerina Siniakova. He had been scheduled to team with Emma Navarro, before she withdrew to play in the women's tournament in Monterrey, Mexico, next week.

Feeding off rule book for the love of golf

Krishaa is India's youngest Level-3 certified referee

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Early this year, a player's tee shot landed in a fairway bunker on the eighth hole of the Hyderabad Golf Club and Krishaa Nichani found herself in a spot. This was during an Indian Golf Union's (IGU) men's amateur event.

The ball resting in the bunker was surrounded by red ants which prompted the golfer to use the 'Dangerous Animal Condition' Rule 16.2a which states: "This exists when a dangerous animal (such as a poisonous snake, stinging bees, alligators, fire ants or bears) near your ball could cause serious physical injury to the player if you had to play the ball as it lies."

This is followed by Rule 16.2b which allows a player, facing such a scenario, to take a free relief. However, Krishaa, who was the referee at the spot, denied the golfer from making use of the said rule.

"There were about 6-7 tiny red ants," says the 19-year-old Krishaa.

"And the rule clearly mentions that a relief can be given only for fire ants - which are much bigger in size. The golfer, much older than me, got a bit aggressive, called for a second opinion and reasoned 'I have a cut on my leg and what if the ants bite me?' But I stood my ground," she recalls.

The calm confidence Krishaa displayed in handling a tense situation, that often gets hostile, stood out. It's this conviction that also helped the Bengaluru teen to become India's youngest (Tournament Administrators and Referees Seminar) TARS-qualified Rules Official by passing the R&A Level 3 exam a few months ago.

"That particular ruling gave me so much confidence. Though the player tried everything to question my decision, I stuck by it because I knew the rules well."

For Krishaa, who started playing golf at the age of 13 at the Bangalore Golf Club (BGC) and a regular at the IGU circuit, it was her curiosity to learn the nuances of the sport at a deeper level that fueled her interest to take up refereeing. After clearing the Level 1 and Level 2 certifications in 2024, she wasted little time in passing the Level 3 exam that required her to complete 120 hours of practical refereeing.

The official print version of the golf rule book, published by the R&A and the USGA, with every detail chalked down to the tee is considered by many as more intimidating than a golf course. The stress of reading through several pages wasn't too different for Krishaa either.

"I'm not at all a book person. I was scared to read the book as well. But the app made it easier," she claims.

The Level 3 certification has now opened multiple doors for Krishaa. When she isn't travelling for tournaments to compete, the youngster is hopping across the country to officiate at golf events.

"I enjoy doing both equally. Being a referee helps me become a better golfer for sure. From the course markings and tee box placements to the pin positions and all of their complexities help me understand the game better. I enjoy it," offers Krishaa.

The aim is to officiate on the high-end international tours such as the Aisan Tour, DP World Tour and maybe the LPGA and PGA someday, says the golfer who wants to turn professional next year.

But for now, refereeing along with fine-tuning her golfing skills is only helping Krishaa to spend more time with the sport she is madly in love.

Bengaluru's amateur golfer Krishaa Nichani recently became India's youngest TARS-qualified Rules Official.

Wrestler Sumit in 57kg final

SAMOKOV (BULGARIA), PTI: Indian wrestler Sumit Malik stormed into the men's 57kg final to assure himself a medal on the second day of the U20 World Championships here on Monday, while Amit will fight for bronze in the 79kg category.

Sumit produced a dominant show in the semifinals, beating Moldova's Ion Bulgaru 11-3. Earlier in the quarterfinals, he had registered a convincing 9-2 win over Azerbaijan's Vasif Baghirov.

All-round Madhava stars for Dharwad

BENGALURU, DHNS: Madhava Dharwadkar was the star of the show (171 & 2/25) as Dharwad Zone took the first innings lead and collected three points from their drawn fixture against Raichur Zone in the SA Srinivasan Memorial under-23 tournament here.

Madhava's brilliant display assisted Dharwad to post 357 in 73.1 overs in their first innings. Rohan N (3/39) and Praveen P Kotyal (4/28) reduced the damage, picking up seven wickets between them.

Raichur were all out for 308.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: At Alur (2): Dharwad Zone: 357 all out in 73.1 overs (Rohan M Yareshmi 25, Nagarjun S Patil 52, Madhava Dharwadkar 171, Pralhad P Naik 39, Rajendra Danganavar 35; Rohan N 3-39, Praveen P Kotyal 4-28) & 119/2 in 18 overs (Rajendra Danganavar 50 n.o., Aditya V Hiremath 31 n.o.) drew with Raichur Zone: 308 all out in 88.2 overs (Thippa Reddy 48, Harsha Wardhan Khuba 85, Aniketh Reddy 91; Rohan M Yareshmi 2-61, Punit R Basava 3-66, Madhava Dharwadkar 2-25). Dharwad Zone: 3 points & Raichur Zone: 1 point.
At BGS: Tumkur Zone: 296 all out in 79.5 overs (Adarsh MA 32, T Chiranjeevi 154, Raiyan Malik GS 46; Rajashekar Swamy 3-56, Ranjan MS 2-56, Surendra Rathore 4-61) drew with Mysore Zone: 311/4 in 66 overs (Likith S Gowda 66, Yashwanth Patel 62, Abhay Rangan A 111 n.o., Rohan BC 35). Mysore Zone: 3 points & Tumkur Zone: 1 point.
At IAF: Combined City XI: 313/5 in 90 overs (Ashwin Santosh 108, Karan U 71, Dhruv P 39 n.o., Samit Dravid 49 n.o.; Monish Reddy 2-35) drew with President's XI: 216/3 in 64 overs (Jasper EJ 87 n.o., Aarav Mahesh 64, Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 46 n.o.; Sujay S Kulkarni 2-72). Match Drawn with first innings unfinished due to rains). Combined City XI: 1 & President's XI: 1.
At Alur (3): Bangalore Zone: 149 all out in 41.2 overs (Rahul Prasanna 37, Krishiv Bajaj 28; Nikhil Aithal 2-12, Nathan D'Mello 2-32, Ismail Mohtesham 2-24, Rohan RR 4-6) & 2/0 in 2 overs drew with Mangalore Zone: 148 all out in 36.2 overs (Rushi B Shetty 42, Akshay A Kamath 26, Nischith Pai 29, Mohsin Khan 6-42). Bangalore Zone: 3 & Mangalore Zone: 1.

Aditi ends 6th to log season's best

PORTLAND, PTI: Aditi Ashok fired a final round of 5-under 67 to finish sixth in The Standard Portland Classic held at Columbia Edgewater Country Club on the LPGA.

The sixth-place finish is Aditi's best finish of the season on the LPGA and only the second Top-10 finish this season.

Aditi shot 69-70-65-67 to finish the week with a score of 17 under par. She had seven birdies and two bogeys in her final round.

Indian-American Gurleen Kaur shot 7-under 65 on the final day, following rounds of 65-68-70, for her career best result of second with a total score of 20-under par.

Lahiri tied-27th

Anirban Lahiri signed off with a two-under 69 to finish tied-27th at the LIV Golf event in Indianapolis, ending the regular season 25th in the individual standings of the Liv Golf league.

Lahiri shot 67-67-69 for a 10-under total as Sebastian Munoz beat Jon Rahm in a play-off after both tied at 22-under.

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